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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-248 *27 December 1994*

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NATO Secretary General Interviewed

LD1812162094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1940 GMT 17 Dec 94

[By Itar-Tass correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels, 17 Dec— Although the Bosnian crisis has not led to a split within NATO such as the one at the time of the Suez crisis, the risk of a split appeared when Washington decided to stop its participation in the control over the embargo on arms supplies to Bosnia and, in response, the European allies said they would withdraw their "Blue Helmets" contingents from the former Yugoslavia. NATO Secretary General Willy Claes said this in an interview he gave to an ITAR-TASS correspondent and some other journalists accredited to NATO.

Therefore the intention, announced by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, to offer German troops to take part in a possible operation to withdraw "Blue Helmets" from the former Yugoslavia, and a similar decision taken previously by U.S. President Bill Clinton confirm solidarity within the North Atlantic Alliance, he said.

The NATO head thinks an operation to withdraw the UN protection forces from the former Yugoslavia will be carried out in a case of special emergency: "UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] are playing a very useful and constructive role, even if for the time being one could see no real prospect for a peace settlement."

The supreme command of the NATO allied armed forces in Europe, on instructions from the NATO Council, is drawing up a preliminary plan for such an operation. On Monday, it will be discussed at the Council's regular sitting and it should be ready by the beginning of January. Then all 16 member-states of the alliance should clearly state what concrete contribution they would be able to make to its implementation.

Willy Claes reminded us of an obligatory condition if NATO were to carry out an operation to cover the withdrawal of the UNPROFOR: all levers of command and control should be in NATO's hands. "Otherwise, NATO was not prepared to take responsibility for such an important and dangerous operation," he said. "The alliance was ready to involve the troops of the countries which are not NATO members in the operation if it is the will of the UN Security Council and a desire by the countries themselves."

But at present it is difficult to make a political decision to withdraw the UNPROFOR, Claes thinks, because there is no answer to the question "And what is next?". A large Balkan war will be unavoidable if another restraining mechanism is not created simultaneously with the UNPROFOR withdrawal.

Claes reminded us that it was the United Nations and not NATO that was playing a leading role and defining a strategy in the settlement of the conflict and, consequently, was responsible for the failures in the peacemaking process. NATO is implementing a rather limited mandate of the UN Security Council.

"I am not saying that I am washing my hands of it, I do not want to play the role of Pontius Pilate", he said. "But NATO is not responsible in any way for the strategy of the UN Security Council, although NATO countries are its members. The rules of the game there are known: a decision is adopted by a majority and there should be no veto by any of the permanent members. And there is no such guarantee."

"We are not going to substitute the United Nations and respect the rules proposed to us, the main ones of which are the principles of 'dual key' and proportionality," he said. "We are prepared to carry out peacekeeping missions in the future as well, but before accepting them one should assess the rules of the game very carefully."

Willy Claes thinks that the "Partnership for Peace" program, in which 23 countries are participating and in the framework of which 18 peacekeeping joint exercises have been planned for 1995, is aimed at increasing the peacekeeping opportunities for the NATO countries and their partners.

In the opinion of the NATO secretary general, from the onset of the Bosnian conflict the international community made a strategic mistake by giving up a strong-arm solution.

It is easy to write history with hindsight and criticize Butrus Butrus-Ghali, his team and the Security Council now for their inability to extinguish the fire of war. But they are operating in the framework of the choice made by the international community. Only one solution is left—a diplomatic one, and its best formula has been proposed by the Contact Group.

The NATO secretary general sounded skeptical about a mediatory mission by the U.S. former President James Carter. The proposals by Radovan Karadzic, on the basis of which Carter is going to hold negotiations, are not a peace plan but a cease-fire at most and a tactical attempt to push the Contact Group aside. One could only welcome any attempt to try and achieve a cease-fire but only as a necessary condition for peace talks. The foundations themselves of the plan of the Contact Group should not be changed."

Mulatov Commentary on China's Efforts To Rejoin GATT

OW2612121194 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 23 Dec 94

[Announcer-read commentary by station observer Mulatov; from the "Current Events and Commentary" program]

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[FBIS Translated Text] China's Foreign Ministry has put forward the goal of attaining China's restoration as a member of the GATT by the end of this year. This will enable China to become one of the founding members of the World Trade Organization [WTO].

Starting 1 January 1995, the WTO will be declared to be the legal successor to the GATT and the principal legislative body and mediator for deciding world trade and tariff policy. China, which is a country with rapid economic development and which is expanding its imports and exports, wants to restore its position as a member of the GATT and to become a founding member of the WTO starting 1 January. The GATT Working Party on China held several meetings over the past several months to discuss this issue; China showed great flexibility in its negotiations with Japan, its West European trading partners, and members of ASEAN; the hard ice seemed to have melted; a green light would be given to China; and China, like other powerful trading countries, would become a founding member of the WTO. Nevertheless, I must mention again [as heard] that China was not able to rejoin the GATT.

People have reason to ask why. China's newspapers and other mass media carried reports on certain countries lacking sincerity and having prejudice in the course of bargaining, and on some contracting parties' violating the principle of fairness and demanding that China assume more obligations in the new WTO, to explain the failure to reach an agreement. However, judging from the substance of the matter, China's commentaries and views were directed at one side. In a commentary carried by the XINHUA News Agency, it directly hinted that at the present stage the U.S. stand has obstructed China's rejoining GATT and the road to enter the WTO. According to the XINHUA commentary, the United States has put forward demands which have in fact nothing to do with the substance of the matter.

Objectively speaking, I think that the United States and several other countries, after setting up substantial and procedural obstacles to China's becoming a founding member of the WTO, have not only hurt China's economic and trade interests and benefits but also have hurt the liveliness and effectiveness of the new international organization in its initial period. China is now one of the principal trading countries. Mildly speaking, the WTO without China is shortsighted. Station observer Mulatov's conclusion is that the organization cannot but before long correct this mistake.

PRC Alleged Buyer of Aircraft Carriers Via ROK Company

OW2312045194 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 0700 GMT 14 Dec 94

[B. Makarychev video report; from the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] If the ships are being sold, then someone stands to profit from it. Today we have information supplied to us by (?VVS) Radio, which lifts the veil from this deal. The fact that the Maritime Transportation's Central Administration has chosen the Kompass-1 Company as an intermediary is especially interesting. The company was founded by the Russian Kompass Company and the ROK (?Yang Distribution) company. As to the Kompass Company, it is packed with well known faces: Vice Admiral Makhonin, former rear services chief of the Pacific Fleet and of the USSR Fleet; General Moiseyev, former Soviet Army chief of staff; Admiral Vernavin, former USSR Navy commander in chief, and Admirals Sidorov and Alpatov. By the way, Admiral Makhonin has already traded in ships when he created the Joint Stock (Novikon Ost) Company in Kamchatka. Such a distinguished constellation of stars makes it doubtful that the percentage promised by General Grachev for the sale of the ships will be fully used for the Pacific Fleet's social needs.

According to an opinion expressed by Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, Maritime Kray Administration head, at a meeting with members of the central media, and also according to fleet headquarters, we could have taken on selling obsolete and surplus vessels ourselves in a fairly professional manner. There is another side to this coin, though.

[Begin Gorelikov recording] Dismantling ships is the province of countries with low labor costs—this is indubitable. Therefore, hoping that some country with a well developed economy would buy ships for dismantling is madness. [end recording]

So, if we depart from this conclusion, the ROK, which is supposed to buy the Minsk and Novorossiysk vessels, does not really fit in, to put it mildly. There is no need to spend a lot of time looking for an answer to this strange metamorphosis—China has been trying since 1992 to purchase two modern ships. Moreover, according to a statement by the ROK (?Yang Distribution) Company president, as quoted in TOKYO SHIMBUN, South Korea does not have the dismantling facilities to handle ships of this caliber. Therefore, talks are currently underway on dismantling the aircraft carriers in China. As translated to a viewer unversed in military technology, this means that China gets not only the metal scrap as stated in the contract, but first and foremost, the technology for making similar vessels. Who knows how we might react if in a few year's time, while on a friendship visit, a look-alike of the Minsk or Novorossiysk turns up among a detachment of Chinese ships, with a slogan reading "Russians and Chinese are Friends Forever." [popular slogan during height of Soviet-PRC relations in the fifties]

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Russia To Toughen Stand on Debt Repayment by CIS States

MK2312152694 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 23 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Konstantin Levin: "Russian Economic Policy and CIS. Unpleasant Surprise In Store For Commonwealth Countries"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recent developments show that Russia intends to forego in 1995 its duties as a financial and energy donor to CIS countries. Viktor Chernomyrdin spoke in the clearest terms about toughening our position on the repayment by the Commonwealth countries of their debts to Russia when he addressed the meeting of CIS heads of government on 9 December. Today it seems rather important to determine new guidelines in multilateral and bilateral trade and economic relations. A Russian government delegation led by Vladimir Mashchits, the head of Minsotrudnichestvo [Ministry for Cooperation with Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States] is supposed to leave for Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan] and Uzbekistan tomorrow, with the visit's objective being to sign a number of understandings in the field of production cooperation.

Economic integration in the CIS in 1994 has developed some institutions which suggest that it is going to follow the model tried out by the European Union. Agreements were signed at the top level on a payments union and on the formation of an Interstate Economic Committee (IEC). Special persistence in creating these structures was shown by Russia, practically the only CIS country that has for three years had an agency tasked with solving the problems of integration— a ministry for cooperation with member states of the CIS. Thus, the Commonwealth states have in the past year made a strategic choice rejecting an uncritical restoration of former economic relations. The idea of reviving the ruble zone on the territory of a number of CIS countries has been finally laid to rest. Had this not happened, hopes that Russia might stop being a financial donor to Belorussia [Belarus] and Tajikistan would have been in vain.

Besides, as the IEC goes to work in 1995, one may speak of the emergence in the CIS of an executive supranational body capable of solving both concrete day-to-day matters and global problems of integration. However, economic integration in the CIS is still based to a considerable extent on Russia's being a financial and energy donor. According to the Russian government, CIS countries received in 1992-1994 credits worth $5.6 billion. Their repayment has, for all practical purposes, not yet started. Debts run up for deliveries of Russian energy sources to the Commonwealth countries reached on 1 November 7.5 trillion rubles [R], with R6.6 trillion of them being for gas. Russia's partners have run up a debt of $227 million in 1994 in the area of interconnected supplies. A way out of the situation was proposed by the Russian Minsotrudnichestvo: In 1995, Russia will not supply products to CIS countries under trade and economic agreements unless they are paid for in advance (100 percent as regards energy sources) and will introduce penalties for late payments.

The premier also threatened not to consider new credits in 1995 unless the nonpayment problems have been solved. This threat must be quite real because the Russian government has already decided not to extend new state credits in 1995 and to confine itself to fulfilling its 1994 state credit obligations. Vladimir Mashchits' December visit to Bishkek and Tashkent, which will be devoted to putting into effect the principle of mutual advantage in production cooperation, will most likely take place under the sign of changes in Russia's economic policy toward CIS countries.

One can rather confidently say that Russia no longer be a financial donor for CIS countries in the new year. However, deliveries of Russian gas in the coming year will most probably be continued at preferential prices.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 27 Dec

LD2712080394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0502 GMT 27 Dec 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 27 (ITAR-TASS)—The situation in and around the Chechen Republic is the main topic of today's issues of all Russian newspapers.

The IZVESTIYA daily draws the following conclusion from President Boris Yeltsin's opening address to the Russian Security Council meeting on Monday: Russian troops will not pull out of Chechnya but will remain there as a factor of military pressure on Groznyy urged to resume political dialogue.

"It is highly improbable, however, that the troops will be inactive in the places of their deployment. The militia is unable to accomplish the task of disarming Dudayev's combat groups, while even insignificant clashes will immediately evolve into large-scale combat operations. Consequently, position warfare will continue in Chechnya," the newspaper notes.

Giving a thorough analysis of the Chechen situation in the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper, Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray draws a conclusion that the crisis "cannot be settled instantly".

Further actions by federal authorities can be based on parallel implementation of strategic and tactical measures subdivided into at least three stages.

In Shakhray's opinion, the first stage should provide for demilitarising the Chechen Republic by withdrawal of heavy weapons from Chechen gunmen and their destruction as well as for stopping the operation of illegal armed detachments.

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The second stage should be aimed at implementing gradual transition to stabilisation of the situation and normalisation of life in areas of the Chechen Republic controlled by federal authorities.

According to Shakhray, the third stage of settling the Chechen crisis should see the final restoration of democracy in the republic and creation of constitutional bodies of power.

Under the headline "War Without Valour, Feats and Glory", the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper features a report from its correspondent in Groznyy. The report stresses that there are very many Russians among those killed in the city.

The correspondent notes that Chechnya fighting Russia has no anti-Russian sentiments. "Nobody said a foul word to me for nearly a week-long visit to Groznyy. On the contrary, as soon as people learnt that I was a journalist from Russia, they helped me with everything they had," he stressed.

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper carries an interview with Sergey Nosovets, acting head of the Russian president's information department, who notes that "the information policy, necessary to tackle tasks facing now the federal authorities in Chechnya, was not duly thought out from the very beginning".

This situation now affects both troops of the Russian Interior Ministry and units of the armed forces, Nosovets notes.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA runs an interview with Maria Ivanovna Gracheva, mother of the Russian defence minister.

Examining the work of the lower house of the Russian parliament, the PRAVDA newspaper writes: "Ivan Rybkin (eds: lower house speaker) enumerated dozens of laws adopted over the past year as evidence of the house's fruitful work.

"However, only 80 laws were adopted under Catherine II, while 78 victories were won over 19 years of her rule. This is a good subject for thinking."

Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov explains why communists voted against the draft federal budget for 1995 on the last day of the legislature's session.

"The communist group at the lower house does not consider it possible to change its attitude to the course of the president and the government in exchange for some concessions in budget outlays," Zyuganov writes.

"Reflecting the party's line and defending the national interests of the working class, peasantry, intellectuals and all working people, the communist parliamentary group will strive, as in the past, for a radical change of the course and for eliminating the criminal results of unpopular reforms," he stresses.

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Sale of S-300 System to United States Viewed

LD2412230894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2100 GMT 24 Dec 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Minsk has confirmed that S-300, the latest air defense missile system, has been sold to America for $6 million. To all appearances, Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, who came to power under the slogan of fight against corruption, has ended up being involved in one of the most notorious scandals this year. The real cost of the S-300 is $60 million. It considerably excels Patriot, an American similar system. [passage omitted]

It seems that everyone, from the state down to some nondescript firms, is involved in arms sales, both the latest and not so new arms.

According to a report by the RIA Novosti agency, the Russian aircraft-carrier cruiser Minsk, which is being written off, is to be handed over to South Korea before the end of the year.

Not so long ago the Fotiy Krylov rescue towboat, one of the largest in the world, was returned to Russia literally by miracle. Under forged documents, it was sold by the Intertek firm to Greece for only $1.

[Commentary in the studio by Yevgeniy Kozhokin, director of the Russian Institute of Strategic Studies] I think a lot of work has been done, professional work, so that the S-300 system could end up in the United States. It seems to me that in any event that was our defeat because Belorussia [Belarus] is our ally. We cooperate with Belorussia through practically all departments, including the power ones.

What has happened requires a most serious investigation. At times our long-term interests clash with the current need to get money today, at this very moment. What to choose? To sell some latest models of armaments today and receive the money so needed for the same military-industrial complex, or to think and realize that this weapon may threaten our national interests in a year or two?

Proton Rocket To Be Used for U.S. Satellites

LD2512111994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Proton rocket-carrier will be used for launching into orbit communications satellites of PANAMSAT, an American television and communications company. A RIA Novosti correspondent has been told at the Khrunichev Space Center that a contract for 90 million dollars had already been signed. The Americans have chosen Proton because this rocket makes it possible to considerably reduce the consumption of highly-expensive fuel when placing a space apparatus into an orbit. The first launch is planned for the end of 1996. It will be carried out from the Baykonur cosmodrome.

Aircraft Delivers 'Secret Cargo' to Alabama Airfield

LD2312144194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1731 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 21 TASS—The origin of a secret cargo delivered by a Russian military transport aircraft to Huntsville airfield (Ala., U.S.A.), remains a mystery for both American and Russian military officials.

According to Dave Harris, U.S. officer from the public relations section, the AN-124 military transport plane arrived in Alabama with a cargo for the "Redstone" military base located near Huntsville. The cargo is really of a secret nature although it does not contain radioactive material, Dave Harris said.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the chief staff of the Strategic Missile Corps told ITAR-TASS in Moscow that this fighting service had not sent such a cargo to the United States. Besides, it has no ties with the Space Reconnaissance Center and other structural subunits of the "Redstone" military base in Alabama.

A spokesman for the chief staff of the Air Force of Russia told ITAR-TASS that the "AN-124 aircraft was not under their control".

This plane could be leased by some organization to deliver its cargo to America, a high ranking official from the Russian Air Force told ITAR-TASS.

Kostikov Recommended as Vatican Representative

LD2312160594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1535 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—The board of the Russian Foreign Ministry has recommended to appoint press secretary of the Russian president Vyacheslav Kostikov an official Russian representative in Vatican.

Under the Russian Constitution, Russian diplomatic representatives in foreign states are nominated by the Russian president. No presidential decree to the effect has been issued, sources at the presidential administration told ITAR-TASS.

Chernomyrdin Claims No Arms Sales to Pakistan

LD2312133494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1250 GMT 23 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] New Delhi, 23 Dec—Relations between Russia and Pakistan are open and frank, Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the government of the Russian Federation, who is on an official visit to India, stated at a news conference in New Delhi.

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"At present we do not supply weapons to Pakistan, and for now we do not intend to do so," the head of the Russian Government stressed.

Warns Against Opposing Chechen Settlement

LD2312134394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1243 GMT 23 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Gennadiy Yezhov, Sergey Karmalito, Leonid Kotov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Delhi, 23 Dec—"Russian troops are dealing the main strikes at accumulations of military equipment, at the points from which they are being fired," stated Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Government, at a press conference held by him in Delhi today. He is on an official visit to India. He stressed that "mainly mercenaries, in particular from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, western Ukraine, Abkhazia, and other countries are fighting on the side of Dudayev."

The head of the Russian Government noted that "all measures have been taken and are being taken" by Moscow "to achieve a political settlement of the situation in the Chechen Republic." "Unfortunately, those who take steps to oppose this do not understand what the outcome is likely to be and that they will have to pay for their actions," Viktor Chernomyrdin pointed out.

Duma Official Comments on Chechnya, China Visit

LD2412180494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1755 GMT 24 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov, Vyacheslav Tomilin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing December 24 TASS—"The Chinese partners were cautious about the Chechen problem. They insist that Chechnya is an internal affair of Russia and they do not interfere in internal affairs of other states," Chairman of the Duma Committee for International Affairs Vladimir Lukin told ITAR-TASS today commenting on results of his negotiations in Beijing.

The Russian parliamentary delegation he heads has met Deputy Head of the State Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs Qian Qichen, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese Parliament Qiao Shi and leading political scientists of China.

China is interesting in integration of Russia and other Commonwealth states in such forms that would exclude crises because of the need to ensure stability along its vast border, said Lukin.

Speaking of his vision of ways to settle the Chechen crisis, the Duma committee chairman noted he is not prone to accuse anyone at the moment of military actions. "Any accusations at this time are incorrect from the state point of view. We must concentrate on another thing - the search for ways to unblock the situation," said Lukin.

Japan Changes Stand on Chechnya

LD2512071494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0700 GMT 25 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo December 25—Following other western countries, Japan has changed its stand on the Chechnya situation issue, renouncing the thesis that the problem is Russia's internal affair. Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, at a press conference on Saturday [24 December], expressed concern over the situation in the Chechen republic.

A large number of casualties among the civilian population in Chechnya as a result of bombardment of Groznny by Russian troops "gives rise to great concern. We hope for the restoration of order there by peaceful means," the minister pointed out.

Until recently Japanese government spokesmen in their remarks about the Chechen situation emphasised that the issue falls under the category of Russia's internal affairs, although they did express hope for the earliest normalisation of the situation in the southern republic.

Foreign Ministry 'Stunned' by U.S. Journalist's Death

LD2312123594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1109 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 23 (Interfax)—The death of a U.S. journalist stunned Russia's Foreign Ministry which reiterates its call for all media people - Russians and foreigners alike - to leave the Chechen theater of operations.

The Foreign Ministry's press chief Grigoiry Karasin told Interfax that "the death of an American journalist stunned the Foreign Ministry" which sends its heart-felt condolences to the journalist's family, friends and colleagues.

According to Western news services, Cynthia Elbaum, 28, worked as a photographer on the staff of a New York-based newspaper. She arrived in Russia only a short while ago and, according to knowledgeable sources, failed to register with the Russian Foreign Ministry. Nonetheless, Foreign Ministry staff urged her against visiting Groznyy.

"Her death highlights the hazards of journalism," Karasin said.

On behalf of the Foreign Ministry Karasin urged all media people - Russians and foreigners alike - "to leave the Chechen theater of operations for safer areas."

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Turkey Agrees To Grant Dudayev Asylum in 'TRNC'

LD2612153894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1425 GMT 26 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Babkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 26 TASS—The Turkish authorities have agreed to grant asylum to Dzhokhar Dudayev in the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" (TRNC), the Kurdistan committee news agency said in a statement issued on Sunday [25 December] during the inauguration of a social ABD [expansion unknown] Political Centre of CIS Kurds.

According to the news agency, the two sides discussed this problem during the visit of the Chechen prime minister to Turkey in October. After the premier returned to Groznyy, Chechnya requested Ankara to grant political asylum for Dudayev and got a positive answer, the Kurdistan committee said.

However, asylum was promised not in Turkey but in Ankara-occupied northern part of Cyprus, where the TRNC was proclaimed, but was not recognised by any state.

Prior to the aborted storming of Groznyy by the Chechen opposition, Dudayev repeatedly requested Ankara about Asylum, and the previous consent was confirmed, the agency continues. Kurdistan committee says word goes in Turkey that Dudayev had transferred substantial sums to Turkish banks and bought land in Turkey.

An official of the Turkish Embassy to Moscow, contacted by ITAR-TASS by telephone, refused to comment on the statement of the Kurdistan committee news agency. He said Ankara is not responsible for actions of authorities of the TRNC which, the official said, is "an independent state."

Mojahedin Being Recruited in Afghanistan for Chechnya

LD2312183794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1650 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—Mojahedin volunteer recruitment points were formed on the Afghan territory in mid-November to send the volunteers to the Chechen Republic, the Russian Government's Provisional Information Centre reported today with a reference to the Russian border service.

The points employ Arab specialists to form volunteer groups with a strength of up to 50 men and send them to the Chechen Republic via Pakistan-Iran-Azerbaijan or Afghanistan-Iran-Azerbaijan.

Special agents working on the Azeri territory are bringing the groups to the Russian territory illegally or legally (tourist and commercial trips, individuals wishing to see their relatives and so on). Several hundreds of volunteers have been brought to Chechnya from only one recruitment point from mid-November till now.

However, the Russian Federal Border Service has never said that this is done with the knowledge of the Azeri authorities, says the news agency of the Russian Federal Border Service. Russia and the Azeri republic have an agreement on interaction to prevent trespassing of the state border. Both sides are abiding by the agreement. No illegal actions against border guards on the Russian-Azeri border have been registered.

Kondratyev: Abkhazia Mobilizing 'Militants' for Chechnya

LD2312125294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1109 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow Dec 23 (INTERFAX)—Russia's Deputy Defence Minister, Colonel-General Georgiy Kondratyev has said that in Abkhazia "latent mobilization of militants is underway for participation in hostilities in Chechnya on Dzhokhar Dudayev's side."

Kondratyev said in an interview on Friday [23 December] that according to his sources Abkhazia's armed detachments had been put on the alert.

Kondratyev, who visited Abkhazia last week, has said that the Abkhazian television and radio had offered Dudayev's supporters a chance to declare the enrollment of volunteers to be sent to Chechnya.

Kondratyev did not rule out that militants for Groznyy may be trained in Abkhazia. He said that several days ago a military exercise involving infantry and tank units was held in the Ochamchira military training center. "I saw civilians with firearms and knap-sacks march through the city", General Kondratyev said.

He said the command of Russia's armed forces on December 21 removed from the Georgian-Abkhaz border along the Inguri river a battalion of the 345th airborne regiment. The battalion was part of the peacekeeping group and returned it to its permanent location in Gudauta.

General Kondratyev said the decision to reduce Russian peace-keepers in the region was due to the Abkhaz authorities' attitude to the events in Chechnya. Kondratyev said that 16 hundred Russian servicemen remained in the disengagement zone separating rival factions.

General Kondratyev, who is in charge of peace-keeping operations, called for an end to Russia's peace-keeping operation in Abkhazia, if the republican leaders failed to take resolute measures to stop sending militants and draft-age men to Chechnya.

Troops To Withdraw if Abkhazians Support Chechnya

LD2412174694 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Dec 94

[Video report of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry's TV studio for NTV by Dmitriy Beketov]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Beketov] The military command has approved the plan of replacing peacekeepers [in Abkhazia] by three battalions of the 27th motor rifle division, which is stationed in Totskoye. The number of posts will be reduced from 44 to 43. It is known already that if the mandate for the Russian military to stay in the conflict zone is extended, Vasiliy Yakushev, commander of united peacekeeping forces, will stay at his post for another term.

[Begin Yakushev recording] The main result is that peace, albeit fragile peace, has been established in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Beketov] The Russian side is particularly concerned at the fact that due to escalating tensions in Chechnya, volunteers are registering actively throughout Abkhazia to defend Dudayev's regime.

[Begin recording Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy defense minister] If this is a fact, lads, then there is no reason for us to stay here. You [Abkhazians] will fight against us, Russians, over there—and why should we protect you over here? Is there any logic in it? [end recording]

[Beketov] The six-month term of the stay of Russian peacekeeping forces in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict has expired. During that time they destroyed 25 units of heavy armor, which was left behind by fighters, and over 600 different fire arms. Five thousand mines and a lot of munitions were rendered harmless.

Abkhaz Leader Denies Training of Militants

LD2612125794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1238 GMT 26 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchyogoleva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sochi December 26 TASS—"Our task is to bring it to the notice of people in Sochi that all reports about alleged training of militants on the territory of Abkhazia and about their infiltration into Chechnya in support for Dudayev are totally unfounded," Abkhazian Vice-Premier Yuriy Voronov told Sochi journalists here on Monday [26 December].

Voronov leads an Abkhazian government delegation who arrived here on Monday. The delegation members and municipal administration chief Nikolay Karpov discussed matters aimed at improving Russian-Abkhazian border-crossing procedures.

"As far as rumours about the training of militant groups in Abkhazia are concerned, they are obviously designed to divert the attention of the Russian public from developments in Chechnya," Voronov emphasised.

Border Situation With Azerbaijan 'Remains Tense'

LD2312184094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1630 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—The situation on the Russian-Azeri border remains tense and requires extreme vigilance from border guards, the Russian Government's temporary information center reported today referring to the press service of the Russian border troops.

The inflow of people coming to Russia from Azerbaijan increased in December. Over 30,000 people came via the border check points of Yarag-Kazmalyar and Derbent in December, including over 16,000 to Russia. About 400 of them were citizens of third states.

Seven groups of Azeri citizens with a strength from 15 to 30 people each were not admitted on Russia on suspicion they were heading for Chechnya as volunteers.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin Orders End to Groznyy Bombing

AU2712122594 Paris AFP in English 1204 GMT 27 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 27 (AFP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Tuesday ordered an end to the bombardment of Groznyy, capital of the secessionist republic of Chechnya, and stressed that a political solution to the conflict was still possible.

Yeltsin said he had given orders "to rule out the bombings which could claim victims among the civilian population of Groznyy" in a televised address to the nation, excerpts of which were published under embargo by ITAR-TASS news agency.

He also emphasised that "the way to a political settlement is still open."

Presidential Council Calls for Yeltsin Meeting

LD2712163694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1612 GMT 27 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 27 TASS—Eight members of the Presidential Council sent on Tuesday an official request to President Boris Yeltsin to hold a meeting on the situation in the Chechen Republic, TASS was told by a reliable source in the presidential administration. The source gave no further details.

On Monday three presidential aides told TASS they insist on a peaceful solution of the Chechen crisis.

Emil Pain, Mark Urnov and Leonid Smirnyagin said it was proposed to Boris Yeltsin to order a halt in air raids on Groznyy and initiate top-level contacts between representatives of the federal and Chechen authorities.

On Tuesday Yeltsin said he had ordered to end air raids on Groznyy and stressed that talks could be held only about a ceasefire and arms surrender.

Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, however, insists on Russian withdrawal from Chechnya.

Yeltsin Appeals to Russian Servicemen in Chechnya

LD2712120094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1125 GMT 27 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 27 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian president has appealed to soldiers, officers, and Interior Ministry staff to devote all their efforts to disarming the bandit formations in Chechnya. Speaking to them today in a television address in connection with the situation in the Chechen Republic, the president said:

"You have been sent to Chechnya to defend the state interests of Russia and the interests of our countrys' peoples. You are under the protection of the state and the Russian Constitution, and under the personal protection of the president."

"You have been set a specific task—to disarm the bandit formations and to achieve the surrender or destruction of their heavy weapons," the head of the Russian state pointed out. "I ask you to devote all your efforts to fulfilling the task you have been set and I believe that you will do it," he added.

"The wild outburst of banditry on Chechen territory is a dangerous threat to our entire country," Boris Yeltsin recalled. "Your relatives could become its victims also." "Remember that it is our common goal to help the Chechen people to emerge from the misfortune into which it has fallen, to help them bring about a normal, peaceful, and calm life," the Russian president stressed.

Yushenkov Suggests President Should 'Sack Grachev'

LD2612182194 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Dec 94

[Report over video by correspondent Aleksandr Gerasimov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Duma Defense Committee Chairman Sergey Yushenkov has refused to reveal which sources in the defense department informed him of the decree sacking three deputies of Pavel Grachev, which has been prepared. According to Yushenkov, his informants are extremely trustworthy. [passage omitted]

There is no formal link between the sackings and the army's actions in the Chechen conflict. Pavel Grachev said three weeks ago that all structural changes in his department will be driven by apparatus cuts. Sergey Yushenkov believes, however, that the possible resignation of the three generals may be explained by the decision of the Ministry of Defense to do away with dissent. Gromov, Kondratyev, and Mironov are in opposition to Pavel Grachev and openly speak about the absence of reforms in the army. Sergey Yushenkov also maintains that the present leaders of the Defense Ministry are unable to command the troops.

[Yushenkov] If the president really wants to have people in the army who enjoy high authority and who really understand well the military business, and who also have high moral standards, then he should sack Grachev first. [video shows Yushenko speaking]

Gromov Compares Chechnya, Afghanistan

LD2612183794 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Defense Minister Boris Gromov took part today in an event related to Afghanistan.

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[Begin General Boris Gromov recording, identified by caption] Fourteen and a half thousand people, our people, were killed: That was the result of bringing in troops, of this sad decision, of this thoughtless move of the leadership of our country at that time, who rated their political ambitions and human lives at the same level. Something similar is happening now in Russia, and the experience we went through in our country 15 years ago unfortunately has not been taken in. The most important thing is: Why, for what purpose should our young and not so young people die? [end recording]

Security Council on Need To Continue Efforts

LD2612180994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1730 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 26 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—The press center of the Russian Federation president has circulated an official statement on today's sitting of the Russian Security Council. It says:

A sitting of the Security Council chaired by Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin was held in the Kremlin today. It examined the question of the progress of implementing the measures for restoring constitutional legality, law and order, and peace in the Chechen republic.

The Security Council noted that the implementation of the measures of the first stage is in the process of being completed. A substantial part of the territory of the republic has now been liberated from the illegal armed formations.

The Security Council pointed out the need to continue the efforts aimed at disarming and liquidating the illegal armed formations, and creating conditions for restoring law and order and socioeconomic and public life in the Chechen republic.

The decision taken by the Security Council points to the need to take measures to protect the local population during the final stage of the disarmament and liquidation of the illegal armed formations and sets out the tasks of providing material aid and moral support to the inhabitants of the Chechen republic.

The Security Council decided that it will continue taking active political steps to achieve a ceasefire, the voluntary surrender of arms, and the dissolution of the illegal armed formations.

Kondratyev Comments on 'Surprise' Dismissal

LD2612154094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1325 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow Dec 26 (INTERFAX)—Russia's Deputy Defence Minister Colonel-General Georgiy Kondratyev has said that the presidential decree to dismiss him from his post surfaced "just recently" and was a "total surprise to him".

"Nobody has ever discussed plans for my resignation. Nor did the Defence Minister ask me to resign my post", General Kondratyev said.

General Kondratyev sees no connection between the draft presidential decree to remove him from office and the situation in Chechnya. "In the armed forces I am in charge of peacekeeping operations. I am in no position to command units in Chechnya, which are not part of the peace-keeping force", General Kondratyev said.

Yushenkov Calls To Evaluate Chechnya 'Methods'

LD2612152994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1325 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 26 (Interfax)—The chairman of the State Duma defence committee Sergey Yushenkov positively assessed the results of today's session held by Russia's Security Council to discuss developments in Chechnya. He was glad to hear Boris Yeltsin's statement to the effect that "the first phase of the Russian military's participation in the process of restoring constitutional law and order and establishing peace in Chechnya has been concluded," he told Interfax. According to Yushenkov, this means that "no more bombs will fall on civilians in Groznyy."

Nevertheless he pointed out that he cannot agree with "Mr. Yeltsin's assessment of the work done by Russia's human rights representative Sergey Kovalev." Kovalev and other State Duma members: Mikhail Molostov (of the Russian Choice faction), Leonid Petrovskiy (of the Communist Party faction), Valeriy Borschev (of the Yavlinskiy faction) and the leader of the Memorial society Oleg Orlov "displayed heroism and saved Russia's honor in the eyes of the world and posterity."

According to Yushenkov, "still there is a need to evaluate the barbarous methods of establishing constitutional order in Chechnya and the actions of President Yeltsin himself not only from the legal, but also from the moral point of view."

Yegorov Urges Completion of Operations

LD2612145994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1413 GMT 26 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 26 Dec—Russian Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Yegorov has said that the military operation to take Groznyy must be completed in the very near future. Otherwise, he believes, the internal situation and internationality relations could deteriorate.

Speaking today at a sitting of the government commission for operational issues, the minister for nationalities and regional policy [Yegorov] noted that Chechnya's economy is virtually in ruins. He said the main difficulty is presented by "a complete lack of qualified personnel."

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Because of this, it is virtually impossible to open schools and hospitals and resume operation of the oil and oil-refining industries.

It is vital to decide on repair to the 115-km Groznyy section of the railways if the Chechen Republic's economy is to be restored, Nikolay Yegorov said. He added that according to Railways Minister Gennadiy Fadeyev, work to repair Chechnya's tracks will consume two- thirds of the Railways Ministry's budget for the coming year.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yegorov continued that the population of Chechnya is on the verge of famine. According to the Agriculture Ministry, there are only 16 tonnes of fodder and food grain in the republic. About 30 percent of the population are suffering from severe forms of tuberculosis and also skin disorders, he added.

The most serious problem remains that of refugees, who are now concentrated in four locations. Experts estimate that they number about 200,000. Wages (including pensions and benefits) arrears amount to 600 billion rubles.

Having visited virtually all the republics of northern Caucasus, Nikolay Yegorov said that most of their leaders support the Russian president's actions to impose constitutional order. "The leaders of the north Caucasian republics demand just one thing: Get rid of the Dudayev regime and impose order," he stressed.

Government on International Concerns

LD2612144194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1401 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 26 TASS—The press service of the Russian Government issued the following statement on Monday:

"It has become known that in Morocco, at a conference of Islamic states, King Husayn Bin-Talal of Jordan raised the question of the 'Chechen crisis'. The majority of the participants in the conference agreed to consider the 'Chechen crisis' Russia's internal matter.

"According to reports from diplomatic circles, the countries of the Arab world do not support the (Chechen President Dzhokhar) Dudayev regime and consider it criminal. Bahraini Ambassador to Russia Hasan al-Ansari characterised the situation in the following way: 'Representatives of Chechnya have shown themselves to disadvantage in many countries, including Germany and Britain, by their actions of a criminal nature. What officials of a number of Islamic states say is rather declarations for the outside world than support for Dudayev'.

"Lately, official representatives of the governments of the United States, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Britain, Turkey, Poland, Nicaragua, Peru, Brazil, Jordan and many other countries have expressed their deep concern about the events in Chechnya."

Preparations Continue for Defense Dismissals

LD2612121594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] INTERFAX has discovered that the leadership of the Russian Defense Ministry has drawn up draft presidential decrees on removing Deputy Defense Ministers Boris Gromov, Georgiy Kondratyev, and Valeriy Mironov from their posts. This was announced by Duma Defense Committee Chairman Sergey Yushenkov. He said the draft decrees state that Gromov and Mironov are being sacked in connection with cuts in the number of deputy minister posts held by these generals. In accordance with the draft decree, General Kondratyev comes under the control of the Defense Ministry personnel administration.

Yushenkov believes the real reason for removing these generals is that they refused to take on the command of the actions in Chechnya.

Government Statement on Military Activity

LD2612114694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1112 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 26 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—The press service of the Russian Federation Government forwarded the following statement to ITAR-TASS today:

"Formations and units of the Russian Federation armed forces have continued with engineering works to strengthen the areas held by them, and have brought up reserves and engaged in reconnaissance.

To the east, Russian forces, during the day and the night, repulsed attacks by fighters who, supported by tanks, attempted to strike at Russian units in the vicinity of Argun. They lost five tanks. Our units sustained no casualties.

Combat aircraft carried out a bombing and ground-attack strike against accumulations of men and weaponry in the vicinity of Staraya Sunzha.

Servicemen of the Russian Federation armed forces are stoically withstanding all the strains of military service in combat conditions. For example, 35 servicemen out of 37 scheduled for discharge to the reserve have decided to prolong their contract engagements.

Interior troops are continuing to blockade dangerous routes, guard important installations, take action to disarm illegal armed bands in the vicinity of the Petropavlovskaya, Nikolayevskaya and Chervlennaya populated areas".

Abdulatipov Calls Duma 'Politically Inconsistent'

LD2612094994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0829 GMT 26 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 26 Dec—Ramazan Abdulatipov has told ITAR-TASS that the position of the State Duma leaders who had failed to empower the deputy chairman of the Federation Council to conduct talks with the parliamentarians for the Chechen Republic was "politically inconsistent." "The State Duma and the Federation Council speak in favor of a peaceful settlement of the Chechen crisis on the basis of talks, and at the same time fail to grant the relevant powers to the delegation I have formed from deputies of the Russian Federal Assembly. What is the Federal Assembly aiming at?" the deputy chairman of the upper chamber of the Russian parliament said to ITAR-TASS.

As well as Ramazan Abdulatipov, Artur Chilingarov, deputy chairman of the Federal Assembly, is also in the delegation, which makes it significantly representative. [passage omitted: Chechen side backs Abdulatipov's call for resumption of talks]

According to Ramazan Abdulatipov he "wasted last weekend on resolving the issue of getting the authorization to conduct negotiations, and that none of the country's leadership were to be found in their offices."

Ramazan Abdulatipov called on the Russian president "to undertake all necessary steps towards reaching a peaceful settlement to the Chechen crisis in order to save people's lives and the authority of the powers to be by the New Year."

Aid Convoys Continue to Chechnya

LD2512171894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 25 (Interfax)—The headquarters of the Ministry for Emergency Situations continues to perform a large-scale operation to deliver humanitarian aid to the civilian population of the Chechen Republic, the Interim Information Center told Interfax on Sunday [25 December].

According to the Ministry, two convoys of humanitarian aid set out from Mozdok to Tolstoi Yurt and Kizlyar. One of the convoys (12 KamAZ, 2 GAZ-66 and 1 Ural-4320 trucks) delivered 74 tonnes of food to Tolstoi-Yurt at 14:30. The convoy was escorted by three Russian Interior Ministry's armored personnel carriers.

The second convoy (10 KamAZ, 2 GAZ-66, 2 Ural-4320 and 1 UAZ-452 trucks) brought 72 tonnes of food to Kizlyar at 16:15, the Ministry for Emergency Situations reports. The convoy was accompanied by fours representatives of the Ministry for Emergency Situations.

On Sunday, both convoys will move back to Mozdok, the same source reports.

Yushenkov on 'Illegal' Intervention

AU2412145394 Munich ARD Television Network in German 2130 GMT 23 Dec 94

[Interview with Russian Defense Committee Chairman Sergey Yushenkov by Klaus Petnarz in Moscow; date not given—recorded, in Russian with superimposed German translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yushenkov] The military operation in Chechnya is not in line with our Constitution nor is it in line with our laws, and that is why it is illegal. Our Constitution says that the Army may only be used within Russia if a state of emergency is declared. But that is not the case. Politically speaking, this intervention is completely pointless because it will make Russia break apart. Such operations foment radical nationalist feelings everywhere in Russia; not only in the Muslim regions, but also in other parts of the country.

[Petnarz] How do you see Yeltsin's political future against this background?

[Yushenkov] He does not have any political future. With this operation, he has destroyed any basis for a political future, at least as a legitimate president.

[Petnarz] What options does Russia have?

[Yushenkov] There are only two possibilities: Either we return to a police state or we maintain some hope to continue the democratic development in spite of all difficulties. An operation such as the one going on in the Chechen Republic could spread to all of Russia. That means the state would exercise complete control of people's lives, without declaring a state of war, without any legal basis. Censorship would be reintroduced, the truth would be covered up, and false information would spread, as is common in totalitarian states. The other option is that the president takes immediate action: that he stops the fighting, removes the perpetrators of this horrible policy from their offices and starts negotiations with Dudayev at once. That is the only chance for a truly democratic development in Russia.

[Petnarz] What do you expect from other countries, and from the West in particular?

[Yushenkov] Frankly, I am surprised at the West's silence. I understand that this is a tricky situation for them because it is an internal Russian affair. But if there are such massive human rights violations as in Chechnya, this is no longer an internal affair of our country. Why are the Western states and international organizations keeping silent in view of such clear and massive human rights violations in Russia?

Rybkin Sees Yeltsin's Decision as 'Not Easy'

LD2312204794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1757 GMT 23 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondents Pavel Kuznetsov and Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—It was not easy for the Russian president to choose the Chechen settlement by force, but he took measures adequate to the situation, Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin told a news conference here today.

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The news conference focused on Chechen situation despite its announced topic of results of the second Duma session.

"The situation in the Chechen republic, a subject of the federation, is an old wound of Russia which is hard to be soothed," said Rybkin. "We hoped for wisdom of the Chechen elders, but it was no use". The Duma speaker thinks that president lawfully used the constitution to restore order in the Chechen republic.

"The conflict has inflicted heavy losses," said Rybkin.

Asked about the Groznyy mission of plenipotentiary for human rights and Duma deputy Sergey Kovalev, Rybkin said Kovalev "gives information primarily to Boris Yeltsin" being chairman of the commission for human rights under the state head.

Speaking of results of the Duma second session, Rybkin stressed that the chamber has managed to adopt several key bills. He also noted that the political and economic situation "will not be easy" in 1995 but it cannot be deteriorated by confrontation between power branches. "We must keep the fragile accord in society we have managed to achieve," said Rybkin.

Gaydar Voices Fear of 'Police Regime'

LD2312175894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 23 (Interfax)—Yegor Gaydar, the leader of Russia's Democratic Choice and the Russia's Choice parliamentary group believes that continuation of hostilities in Chechnya is likely to result in the installing of a police regime in Russia. He made this statement at a rally in Dubna, Moscow Region, Thursday night.

He did not endorse, however, the statement issued by Democratic Russia's party calling for a campaign for early presidential elections. He said that this could destabilize the already fragile democratic institutions in Russia.

According to Gaydar, there are those in various echelons of authority in Russia, notably in the executive branch, who would install a police regime. Quite a lot of them try to push events in that direction and some would like to be dictators themselves, he said.

Gaydar explained that if Russia becomes a country at war, "it will need another kind of military spending, a remilitarized economy, broader powers of the police to oppose terror and the freedom of the press will be curtailed."

"Russia will still exist even if it wages a war in the Caucasus but it will have neither a market nor a democracy in that case," Gaydar said.

Yeltsin Plans To Announce 'Political' Solution

LD2312173594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1625 GMT 23 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the near few days Russian President Boris Yeltsin will announce new plans to solve the Chechen conflict which are primarily based on political methods. Yeltsin reported this in his address to the parliament lower chamber in response to the deputies' invitation to attend a joint sitting of the State Duma and the Federation Council on December 24.

Yeltsin is against such sitting. He attracted attention to the fact that this sitting is unconstitutional and its decisions will have no legal force. "Simultaneously we shall come up to destabilization at the federal level instead of consolidation at this dangerous moment. This will put us back from the solution of the Chechen problem," Yeltsin declared.

Yeltsin reported that in the near time he intends to address Russia's citizens "presenting his estimates of the ongoing events."

Experts close to the presidential administration assume that the new concept of the Chechen settlement takes into consideration developments of Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray who is again actively participating in preparing decisions on this problem, reliable sources report.

We'd like to remind that Shakhray's plan provides for a three- stage process of settlement intended for 2-3 years. The first one is connected with demilitarization and stoppage of activity of all armed formations. Shakhray believes that this process should be implemented in two levels. Firstly, it is necessary to disarm all large bandit formations (among them are groupings of Avturkhanov, Labazanov, and other leaders of the opposition), to withdraw heavy arms, and then to confiscate small arms from the population, by means of ransom as well.

Secondly, it is a transition stage which provides for creation of local self-rule bodies. The government has signed a resolution on creation of federal power bodies on the territory of the Chechen republic. Shakhray thinks that it is necessary to create a legitimate power body, a popular (public) chamber by delegating 1-2 members who are nominated at the population's meetings in populated centers. The third stage provides for preparation of documents (with the help of the legitimate popular chamber) to elect power bodies, to hold a referendum on the Constitution of the Chechen republic, to develop and to sign agreements on division of powers with the federal power bodies.

According to Interfax, the new concept of the Chechen settlement, under development by the presidential administration, provides for actions which could result

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ion creation of a real legal basis for negotiations between the federal and Chechen authorities.

This variant is based on the proposal of former prime minister of the Chechen Republic Yarag Mamadayev with which he addressed federal institutions several days ago. The matter concerns liquidation of the dictatorship regime by restoring constitutional government and parliament disbanded by Dudayev and by holding elections to the republican power bodies in October 1995.

Legitimacy of these bodies could be recognized by the Federation Council in the case that they resume their activity. They could become the third reconciliation force in Chechnya's inner conflict and be legal representatives of the Chechen people at the negotiations with Moscow.

"Very soon we are to meet due to my address with the annual Message to the Federal Assembly," Yeltsin said in his letter to the deputies. IF note: The joint sitting of both chambers which Yeltsin is to address with his annual message is to be held on January 11, 1995.

Zhirinovskiy Offers To Mediate Chehnya Talks

LD2312172394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 23 (Interfax)—The leader of the Liberal-Democratic faction in the State Duma Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is ready to "mediate negotiations between Chechnya and the federal executive branch."

The faction's press service said Friday that Zhirinovskiy also proposed an early meeting with President Yeltsin. He would be willing to brief Yeltsin on "his scenario for a Chechen accommodation," the press service said.

'Telebridge' Links U.S., Moscow on Chechnya

AU2312132594 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 22 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Washington Is Concerned About Events in Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The White House hopes that the way out of the situation that has taken shape in Chechnya will be found quickly and through negotiations, stated James Collins, special adviser to the U.S. Secretary of State for affairs of new independent states, during the telebridge between Washington, Kiev, Warsaw, Moscow, and Paris that was organized by the U.S. Information Agency. Meanwhile, over the last two days, the Russian aviation has heavily bombed Groznyy. Representatives of the Russian Federation military command stated that "not only did the Chechen home guard fail to lay down weapons, but even put up resistance." Despite the transport blockade, a large formation of Mojahedins have arrived from Tajikistan and Afghanistan and also a group of citizens from Baltic countries. According to reports from the Chechen capital, since Monday [19 December], more than 200 persons on both sides have perished in the area of the combat actions. The civilian population particularly suffers from the raids of the Russian aviation.

Presidential Aide Resigns Over Chechnya

MM2712120194 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 27 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Poignant Time—Everyone Has Their Own Game"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladimir Smirnov, chief of the Russian Federation President's Expert Analysis Council Secretariat and chairman of the coordinating council of the "Military for Democracy" movement, has announced live on EKHO MOSKVY his decision to quit the Presidential Staff.

The letter sent by V. Smirnov to S. Filatov, leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff, states, in particular:

"As chairman of the coordinating council of the 'Military for Democracy' movement I cannot allow my name to be linked directly or indirectly to the military adventurists in state structures. The military adventure in Chechnya is just the last straw, and it is to all intents and purposes the consequence of the policy pursued by our military leadership. From my standpoint, military reform is entirely lacking and the defense minister simply has no idea of what needs to be done and how to go about it. Procedures in the Army have changed for the worse. The Army is demoralized. An example of that is the storming of Groznyy, which is resulting in great losses and may not even succeed...."

Democrats Protest Kovalev's Removal

LD2712114994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 27 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 27 (INTERFAX)—The Federal Council of the Democratic Russia party has expressed its "resolute protest" against attempts to remove Russia's human rights officer Sergey Kovalev from his responsible post.

The party's statement, passed to INTERFAX, expresses "profound indignation" at the assessment of Kovalev's activity "made by President Boris Yeltsin during the Security Council session on December 26."

The authors of the statement also expressed their "deep concern" about the danger threatening the lives of Sergey Kovalev and his colleagues, currently staying in Chechnya. In their opinion, Kovalev and a group of State Duma deputies "are not only performing a vitally important peacemaking mission, preventing bloodshed in the Chechen capital by their presence in it, but are also asserting the lofty moral ideals of the human-rights movement, to which many of them have made a great contribution."

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Western Media Seen 'Neutral' on Chechnya

LD2512044094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0401 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Dec—The press service of the government of the Russian Federation has reported that the reaction by West European states to the events in Chechnya is still predominantly neutral. What is happening is regarded as Russia's internal affair.

Nevertheless, the communication received by ITAR-TASS says, concern about the conflict being drawn out is becoming more acute and the thesis about the need to resolve it as soon as possible is taking clearer shape. In the opinion of the majority of experts, the West's position will be built on assessments of the events from the point of view of international law and the conventions in force, the press service of the government of the Russian Federation notes.

Troops Deploy in Moscow for 'Crime Prevention'

LD2612205694 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Dec 94

[Report over video by correspondent Nikolay Nikolayev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The newsmen invited today to the Moscow district of troops of the interior of the Russian Federation Ministry of Interior were warned that they would only be allowed to stay at the meeting of the military council for the first 10 minutes. Implementation of the president's decree on urgent measures to enhance crime prevention and the new tasks for the troops of the district were announced on the official agenda. [passage omitted]

The meeting of the military council in the building of the Moscow district was attended not only by the troops of the interior but also by Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov who was met rather ceremoniously. As we learned before the start of the official part of the meeting, the main question to be discussed with Luzhkov is the formation of operational and motorized units of the troops of the interior in order to combat crime in Moscow.

[Arkadiy Baskayev, commander of the Moscow District of the troops of the interior of the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation—captioned] A decision has been taken to equip every district [okrug] here in Moscow with its own special motorized military unit of the troops of the interior. Normally it is a battalion or a regiment up to 700 men strong. [video shows meeting, Baskayev speaking]

Police Discover Arms Cache in Moscow Apartment

LD2612125394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1125 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 26 (Interfax)—Last week- end Moscow police and members of the Counterintelligence Service discovered a cache of explosives and firearms.

As Interfax learned from a spokesman for law enforcement agencies, the cache contained five 400-gram and two 200-gram trotyl cartridges, ten F-1 hand grenades, four detonators, 13 TT pistols, two shortened Kalashnikov submachine guns, 16 silencers, three radio transmitters and over 1000 units of explosives. It was discovered in a flat inhabited by several persons from other towns. The spokesman did not elaborate.

It's noteworthy that at least two acts of sabotage took place in Moscow lately. Last Thursday three 400-gram trotyl cartridges were laid on the circuit railway. One of them exploded when a freight train was passing. No one was hurt. In late November a similar blast damaged a railway bridge across the River Yauza in Moscow.

Judicial Chamber Voices Support for Free Press

LD2612153694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1355 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 26 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—The judicial chamber on information affairs under the Russian Federation president issued a statement today "On defending the freedom of mass information in connection with the events in Chechnya." ITAR-TASS has received this statement, the text of which follows:

"The dramatic events of the last few days in Chechnya are being accompanied by instances of crude violation of journalists' rights to access to all-round and trustworthy information, impermissible duress exerted on journalists, prescribing what and how they are to write about the Chechen events, and other deviations from the provisions of the Russian Federation Constitution on the freedom of mass information and the ban on censorship.

The judicial chamber declares that nothing and no one can annul the direct operation of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, especially regarding the freedom of speech and the rights of citizens to receive trustworthy and objective information.

At the same time, the aforementioned right of citizens also assumes that there should be all-round press coverage of the real aims and motives of those measures being taken by the president of the Russian Federation, the government of Russia, the bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the armed forces to ensure the functioning of the Russian Federation Constitution on the territory of the Chechen Republic and the restoration of constitutional order.

The judicial chamber declares that it will, within its competence and within the means envisaged, defend the freedom of mass information and the rights of journalists, while at the same time appealing to them to weigh every word and to try to differentiate between facts and opinions, analysis and emotions, and the interests of Russia and the interests of diverse political forces.

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The judicial chamber calls on the Russian civilian and military authorities in the conflict zone to strictly observe the rights and legitimate interests of journalists, and to give them the maximum assistance in fulfilling their professional duty.

The judicial chamber is profoundly grieved over the tragic casualties in Chechnya and the death of U.S. journalist Cindy Elbaum, and expresses condolences to the nearest and dearest of the dead.

Official News Conference Denies Reporter Entry

LD2312174894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 23 (Interfax)—A correspondent of the ITAR-TASS state new agency, Tatyana Zamyatina, was not allowed to a press conference on the Staraya Square organized by the Russian president's administration today.

The Russian president's Aide on International Affairs Dmitriy Ryurikov spoke at the press conference.

For the first time Zamyatina was not allowed to the Kremlin on December 17 when the Public Chamber under the Russian president was holding a meeting. Zamyatina was seized a temporary pass to the Kremlin. [sentence as received]

Kremlin Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov instructed Chief of the Russian Main Defense Department Mikhail Barsukov and acting Head of the Urgent Information Center Sergey Nosovets to examine the incident.

Nosovets told Interfax on Thursday that he had not yet begun dealing with the problem. When asked about the incident today he said, "Let the Main Defense Department deal with this."

Government Provides Profile on Dubinin

LD2312121494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1147 GMT 23 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—The Russian Government has ruled to appoint Russian special envoy Yuriy Dubinin deputy foreign minister.

An official document which came to ITAR-TASS today from the government's administration says that from now, the Russian Foreign Ministry is authorized to have ten deputy foreign ministers, including two first deputy foreign ministers.

Next follows a brief account of the activities of the newly appointed foreign minister and some biographical data.

Since March, 1992 Yuriy Dubinin was head of a delegation of the Russian Federation to talks with Ukraine. Presumably, his appointment to the post of deputy foreign minister is connected with his activities in this field. In an interview with ITAR-TASS, a top foreign ministry official said that this move should be regarded as Russia's intention to raise the level of the Russian state delegation to the talks with Ukraine. The official expressed the hope that this would help step up the coordination of a bilateral treaty and promote the soonest solution of other problems in the competence of the Russian delegation.

Yuriy Dubinin was born in the city of Nalchik in Kabardino- Balkaria on October 7, 1930. Dubinin is a professional diplomat and a master of historic sciences. He graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and has been working at diplomatic missions since 1955. For many years Dubinin worked at the Russian Foreign Ministry. He began his career by being a trainee and was steadily promoted to higher posts. Dubinin was Russia's plenipotentiary ambassador to the United States and other countries, including Spain and France, and was Russia's permanent representative at the United Nations and the U.N. Security Council. Dubinin was awarded with three Orders of the Red Banner, the Order of the People's Friendship and a Badge of Honor.

Dubinin is married, he has three grown-up daughters. His hobby is gardening and his is fond of swimming and skiing.

Procurator Urges Charges Against Gaydar, Others

LD2312145894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1332 GMT 23 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Solodova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—Aleksey Ilyushenko, acting procurator-general of the Russian Federation, addressed to the State Duma a request for administrative charges against members of Russia's Choice faction in the State Duma Yegor Gaydar and Sergey Yushenkov and against member of the faction of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] V. Marychev.

The address was prompted by the fact that bodies of the procurator's office had concluded the check as to the legality of holding rallies by deputies of the State Duma and leaders of political factions and movements in Moscow on December 11 and December 12, ITAR-TASS learned from the centre for information and public relations of the Procurator-General's Office of the Russian Federation. It was established that the above-mentioned deputies, in violation of requirements of current legislation, staged unsanctioned rallies in the Pushkin Square.

Administrative proceeding were instituted against leaders of Working Russia Movement V. Anpilov, V. Khudyakov, V. Gunkov and I. Brumel for violating the

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procedure of holding rallies. The cases have now been referred to court, and the hearing was appointed for December 27, 1994.

Criminal proceedings under Article 71 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation were also instituted against Viktor Anpilov for pronouncements amounting to propaganda of war that he made in his remarks at a rally outside the All-Russia Exhibition Centre on December 12. Proceedings have also been instituted under Article 130, Part three, of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation for the circulation at the December 12 rally in the Pushkin Square of slogans and posters containing falsehoods insulting to the Russian president.

Poll Shows Indifference to Duma

MK2412134694 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 24 Dec 94 p 2

[IMA-PRESS report: "People Are Indifferent to Duma Members"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been found, in a poll conducted in 12 regions of the Russian Federation by the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology, that as little as 12 percent of the respondents show a considerable interest in the work of the Duma, more than a third of them hardly follow what is happening in parliament, and 42 percent know nothing at all about it and do not wish to know. Among those who are interested, as little as 14 percent of those questioned thought the lower house's performance was "satisfactory," 27 percent thought it "unsatisfactory," 10 percent thought it "extremely unsatisfactory," and the rest expressed no opinion. The deputies stand little chance of winning popular support should the Duma be dissolved. Those who most ardently support this move are supporters of the "Russia's Choice" faction and its opponents—Communists, Agrarians, and those who like "Yabloko." Should an election be held today, 41 percent of the respondents would not bother to vote, 11 percent would vote for Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's bloc, 10 percent would vote for "Russia's Choice," trailed by "Women of Russia," the LDPR, and the Communist Party of the Russian Federation. The other factions would not clear the 5 percent threshold. The Communists have the most stable electorate (compared to 12 December, they lost 26 percent of the votes), followed by the Agrarians, "Yabloko," "Women," and the Liberal Democrats. "Russia's Choice," which lost 53 percent in last year's election, is in the worst position in this sense, IMA-PRESS reports.

Ex-KGB Official on Spying, Exploitation, Ames

MM2312133594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 94 p 6

[Interview with Retired KGB Lieutenant General Nikolay Leonov by Sergey Zavorotnyy; date and place not stated; under the "From the Life of the Secret Services" rubric: "KGB Lieutenant General Nikolay Leonov: Failure by Ames in the United States was Impossible. He Was Betrayed in Moscow"—first paragraph is KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Top Secret [as published in original]:

From the personal file of KGB Lieutenant General Nikolay Sergeyevich Leonov:

1958-1971—staffer of the KGB (Soviet intelligence) First Main Directorate Second Section.

1971-1973—deputy chief of the First Main Directorate Information Service.

1973-1983—chief of the First Main Directorate Information Service.

1983-1991—deputy chief of the First Main Directorate responsible for operations in the Western Hemisphere.

1991 (February-August)—chief of the KGB Analytical Directorate.

As of 22 August 1991, he retired from the ranks of the KGB.

In November 1994, Leonov's book—"Seditious Times" from the "Secret Missions" series—was published.

He was nailed by a crate of "Stolichnaya" vodka. Regular vodka—12 individual bottles in stiff cardboard packaging. The bottles had reached America without any hitches—but once there, it was these bottles which smashed to smithereens the life of someone who seemed to be a wholly regular guy but who was a staffer of what was still at that time the Soviet inmtelligenmce service. When, three years later, he was caught red-handed in Moscow, he uttered just one sentence: "I have been expecting this for a long time." And he caved in immediately. He revealed everything there was to know about him.

The story of his treachery was fairly banal. Not at all like in the movies. The owner of a video store where Soviet Embassy staffers in Washington often acquired goods made a young diplomat the offer of carrying out a small financial deal: he will sell him a splendid stereo system at an enormous discount, and the client will pay for this with a regular crate of export "Stolichnaya." They shook hands on it. The store chief beamed with a smile which disappeared with him into some unknown place at the moment of payment, when a third man—by no means the odd man out—sailed in from the store's office and immediately began harassing the guy.

The young diplomat, having been caught red-handed, was accused of smuggling—he was charged with effecting payment for an item with a crate of vodka obtained at a huge discount through diplomatic channels. The CIA man threatened that the guy's career would be ruined if all this story with the vodka were to be get into the

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American press tomorrow. Then suddenly, he turned from accuser into friend. He offered to save him—to forget the entire sorry incident if he were to name KGB station chief in Washington. The recording equipment functioned faultlessly and it clearly recorded the act of betrayal: The intelligence officer gave his chief's name. Subsequently he revealed the names of other station staffers.

This story was told to me by retired KGB General Nikolay Leonov. In the years of Soviet power, he was responsible for Soviet intelligence operations from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego.

[Zavorotnyy] Nikolay Sergeyevich, the story told by you is hard to take in: Can it really have been so simple, is it really the case that a Soviet intelligence agent could be recruited on something so stupid?

[Leonov] The Americans had a very sophisticated system for spotting treachery—a unique aid for seaching for and targeting traitors among Soviet citizens on the basis of an analysis of all their personality traits. What did they look for first of all? Well, for instance, a heightened opinion of self. He is talented, able, yet his bosses do not notice, they do not want to notice his worth. They are stunting his growth. And in general they are gross, uncouth people. Of particular interest to the CIA staffers were such qualities as downright avarice, materialism. You know, in Soviet times we were none of us rich. We treasured every dollar. So here, a potentially lucrative field for activity opened up. Take this guy. You know, at meetings, the CIA paid him up to $500 a time. This is nothing for them, but for him, at that time, it was a lot of money. Incidentally, even at these meetings he was afraid of taking the whole sum.

The Americans actively exploited the fear of Soviet Man when confronted with the word "career." In our country at that time, all violations of the norms of behavior by Soviet citizens abroad were severely punished. So you can see the kind of cocktail of material and moral factors which the Americans were working on.

[Zavorotnyy] In the story that you have just told me, there is one detail lacking—the name of the intelligence agent who was recruited.

[Leonov] I cannot name him. Before he was shot, he asked his wife to change her name and not to make the new name known. She is to tell the children that their father died in a car accident. He wanted that they should grow up without any hang ups. We promised him this.

[Zavorotnyy] As we have started talking about traitors and treachery: To your knowledge, in which regions of the world did this happen most often?

[Leonov] The most sensational stories of betrayal of Soviet intelligence took place on the whole in West Europe, the United States, and Southeast Asia. They simply became an everyday occurrence. From 1980 to 1991, 12 betrayals were recorded. These are the years when Soviet society was breaking down. And intelligence was no exception.

[Zavorotnyy] But what about the "fiery continent"? Is it really the case that nobody has ever betrayed you in Latin America?

[Leonov] I am keeping my fingers crossed. Just in case. Who knows what will happen tomorrow. But in my day, there were no cases of betrayal by Soviet intelligence agents in Latin America.

[Zavorotnyy] What, in your view, explains this "immunity" from treachery in the land of Fidel Castro and Che Guevara? After all, all Soviet intelligence agents were cut from the same cloth, no doubt?

[Leonov] Soviet intelligence agents find themselves in a completely different political climate in Latin America than, say, in the United States and Europe. Here, the history of the continent was formed under the influence of the revolutionary processes in Cuba, Nicaragua, Peru, and Panama. Our staffers lived and breathed this history. They were its witnesses. An anti-imperialist, anti-American spirit was strongly forged in Latin American. And we did not conduct work against the local authorities. We used our presence on Latin American soil in order to work on the Americans. For instance, I was only ever in Argentian on a mission for just three days in all. And even then, I flew there in order to defuse a conflict between the station chief and the ambassador. The local secret services understood this. They only reluctantly embarked upon crude operations against Soviet intelligence. Once, one of the major Latin American politicians, a former president, admitted to me that he was always against cutting off the oxygen supply to Soviet intelligence in his country. He said to me: "Why? Then the interference of the CIA in our internal affairs will sharply increase in our country. Rivalry between the KGB and the CIA has always worked only to our advantage."

[Zavorotnyy] You must agree that for any of the world's intelligence bodies an incident even of a solitary betrayal within its ranks is an outstanding event. In our country, there is nigh on one betrayal a year. Can all these failings truly be attributed to the disintegration of Soviet society?

[Leonov] I am firmly convinced that without an ideology there can be no intelligence bodies. Without an ideological basis, any intelligence agent can be recruited: Pay him more, and that is that. Take China. It, in general, is a poor country. But somehow, I cannot recall any prominent cases of treachery. Why? Because the whole Chinese intelligence network is instilled with the ideas of serving the greatness of the Middle Kingdom, a spirit of superpower nationalism. It is a bitter realization that our Russian society, for instance, having been deprived of a constraining system of ideological fetters, as of today has in practice been left devoid of any kind of national idea as their own concept. Where are the ideas about a great

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Russia, superpower status and statehood, its role and place in this changing world? They do not exist. Take Israel. There, the whole country, and first and foremost the intelligence service, is united by nationalist ideas of the survival of the Jewish nation in a hostile Arab world. Even the CIA has its own ideology—a belief in market values and democracy. Admittedly, these ideas let the Americans down too. CIA staffers used to betray these ideals because of a pragmatic approach to money, the chance of a quick buck.

When the CIA leadership came to this conclusion, they urgently compiled a list of all state functionaries with debts and financial difficulties who could, potentially, become targets for our recruitment.

[Zavorotnyy] Is it not this approach which proved to be the downfall of your agent Ames, a high-ranking CIA staffer who worked for many years for Soviet intelligence?

[Leonov] I can assume with confidence that Ames was betrayed. And he was betrayed in Moscow. For many long years, I personally dealt with the technology of guaranteeing communication with our agent structure in the United States. In the the last 10 years, it has operated faultlessly, and it was invulnerable. A failure was impossible. All these tales about the compromising materials against Ames allegedly found in his garbage cans, and about spending sprees which drew attention to him, are for simpletons. Ames, like Walker, who was allegedly betrayed by his own wife, was "turned in" in Moscow. And this was done by persons who were linked to the Ames affair by their official capacity [I sdelali eto litsa, imevshiye sluzhebnoye otnosheniye k delu Eymsa].

[Zavorotnyy] If this is so, then somebody among those should be building himself, say, a dacha in Moscow's suburbs, or buying himself a "Mercedes"....

[Leonov] Hardly. Today, the money is kept in the West. Any traitor knows well enough what is what and he will not start throwing money around. They do not start living beyond their means.

[Zavorotnyy] Many former Soviet intelligence agents who have defected to the West, such as Gordiyevskiy and Kuzichkin, say that they did not betray the motherland, they were fighting against the totalitarian regime in the USSR, for the democratization of our society. Do you believe them?

[Leonov] I was very well briefed on the cases of Gordiyeskiy and Kuzichkin I was familiar with the cases of other traitors. The only thing which makes them different from Judas is the payment each of them managed to get: some got 35, and others 40 pieces of silver, depending on which of their colleagues they could pawn, and which they could sell to the enemy. Today, when this fat pack of treacherous hounds crawls onto the television screens in Western countries as experts on Russia and fighters for democracy, I get a strange feeling in my stomach. The whole purpose of their verbal outer shell is, in general, just one thing: To cover up the simple truth that, having betrayed once, they will do it a second time. This is the profession they chose for themselves. And there is no getting away from that. And if they were such irreconcilable opponents of the system, then why did they not take the honest and open path of Andrey Sakharov instead of preferring to expose all their colleagues for money, and not much at that, and to surrender the interests of the state in exchange for personal well-being?

Economic Issues

Government Session Discusses 1995 Budget

MM2312124594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 23 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "No Winners or Losers in Budget War—But Treasury Is in the Red"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At its sitting yesterday, the government examined the initial results of the execution of the 1994 Federal Budget.

The situation is alarming: State expenditure is rising rapidly, which is more than can be said for revenues. Treasury receipts have been slow, as a result of which the budget deficit is rising sharply. Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov said that tax arrears since the beginning of the year, according to the most modest calculations, hit over 4 trillion rubles [R]. Indebtedness on payments into the Federal Budget increased, and it already stands at over R8 trillion. The rise in this indebtedness was largely prompted by enterprises' desire to avoid paying taxes, concealing earnings from sales in accounts not registered with the tax organs. Then there is the chronic problem of nonpayments. If money for goods is not forthcoming, tax cannot be deducted from it.

The "black holes" of the 1994 budget may be bequeathed to the 1995 budget, knocking it out of balance. It seems that the government and the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance will have to repeat Boris Fedorov's famous device whereby around R9 trillion in state debts "crept across" from the 1993 budget into this year's budget, something which indisputably undermined its stability from the outset.

What can be done in order to avoid repeating past mistakes and miscalculations? An answer to this question was sought by members of the government at its sitting. They analyzed the work of the State Taxation Service and the Tax Police Department, the Customs and Excise Committee, the Federal Service for Currency and Export Control, and the Committee for the Management of State Property. Each of these eminent institutions is guilty of major arrears or underpayments in respect of the treasury. For instance, receipts from privatization were actually several times lower than envisaged by the budget. Huge sums earned from the sale

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of state property made their way into the hands of speculators, and the functionaries responsible for managing the property did nothing to prevent this. Likewise, revenues from foreign economic activity could have been much higher but for the bureaucratic distribution of numerous concessions and quotas.

Ivan Grachev, chairman of one of the Duma subcommittees, has his own view on the truly drastic devastation of the state coffers.

"I suggest," he said, "that the Ministry of Finance should draw a serious conclusion from its errors. The fact is that, even at the stage of forming the budget, the equilibrium between federal and regional financial interests was violated."

According to his calculations, only less than 40 percent of the country's taxation resources ended up in the federal budget. The territories took the rest.

This happened because the Ministry of Finance put in train a tax collection model which doomed the federal budget to a shortfall of money, even given true evaluations of the macroeconomic indicators.

And yet task was that one-half of the sums collected should go into the central budget while the rest remained in the regions. This is in line with practice in developed states which have an interest in the stability of society. In our country, however, as a result of such a foolhardy distribution of taxes, the opposite effect was achieved. The territories collected approximately R40 trillion and the center—around R20 trillion. Thus there was no stabilization of society, as the state does not have the means to finance many items of expenditure.

Obviously, it is necessary to adjust the tax collection system so that at least 50 percent of the overall mass of funds goes into the federal budget. This tax split is the axiom of social stability in society. It is well known that value-added tax, income tax, and excise duties are regarded as staple taxes. And, consequently, it is necessary to distribute the revenue they yield in such a way that they fall to the state and the regions in the set correlation. And this has to be done when examining the new tax code and the budget for 1995.

In actual fact, things are even more lamentable insofar as some regions do not in practice hand over the taxes gathered to the federal budget. They include, in particular. Bashkiria, Yakutia, and others.

It is through this willful method they are asserting their independence, at least in the use of tax receipts. And indeed, in other regions too, arrears are mainly affecting federal dues.

Chechnya Conflict Has Economic Implications

MM2712150394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Dec 94

[Report by Vladimir Prokhvatilov: "Cost of the War"—from page one of the "Delovoy Vtornik" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] The war with Chechnya has already cost the Russian Government approximately 2.5-3 trillion rubles [R], if you count the spending on support for the Chechen opposition, which has been going on for many months now. That is what the experts from the Russian Federation State Duma's Economic Policy Committee believe. A quarter of this sum would have been enough for the Central Bank to defuse the speculative demand for foreign currency on "Black Tuesday." The money would be enough to unify the Russian and Belorussian [Belarusian] monetary systems.

According to government estimates, direct military spending on hostilities comes to approximately R100 billion. The State Duma experts do not fundamentally dispute this figure, at least the size of it, noting that military spending is still relatively small because the Army is fighting with shells and ammunition that has already been produced.

What can we expect in the future? All independent experts agree that the conflict situation in the North Caucasus will continue for several years to come. Russia will end up with another Afghanistan, since the Dudayev-led mojahedin could wage a long guerrilla war in the mountains, exploiting the sympathy of the population both of Chechnya and of neighboring republics. The Chechen partisans will also be able to obtain weapons, since it will be simply impossible to close certain borders—the border with Georgia, for instance.

If the guerrilla war becomes protracted—and that is clearly inevitable—it will result in the militarization of the entire Russian economy and turn Russia into a police state, Aleksey Melnikov, an EPItsentr staffer and a member of the State Duma's Economic Policy Committee, believes. According to him, this will cost Russian taxpayers approximately R10 trillion a year. This money, which, figuratively speaking, is being burned in the locomotive of an armored train, could be used to completely renovate and modernize the coal industry—in other words, one of the systemic transformations without which our economy will always be backward and lossmaking. Moreover, Melnikov believes that the funds could be used to increase the population's buying power—in other words, to increase wages and pensions and also to index savings (in the Bank for Labor Savings and Credit to the Population, for instance), which would be very important given our acute shortage of investment.

The last straw was the unsuccessful attempt by the Russian defense industry to obtain R111 trillion in budget funding for 1995. A military solution to the Chechen crisis has become the only way for our military-industrial complex to "get around its production problems."

Experts from the Association of Russian Banks are predicting an inevitable deterioration in the financial outlook in Russia—and, in particular, a worsening banking crisis—in the event of an escalation of militarist trends.

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Davydov Sees 'No Basis' for IMF Oil Warning

MK2412141994 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 24 Dec 94 p 2

[Unattributed report based on BUSINESS-TASS materials in the "Denial" column: "The Russian Federation Government Never Thought of Imposing Oil Export Quotas. Vice Premier Oleg Davydov Has Corrected IMF Experts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice Premier Oleg Davydov considers the IMF warning recommending that Russian refrain from the policy of returning to oil export controls as having no basis in reality.

"We are not undertaking a covert replacement of export quotas by internal quotas, and I am categorically against such tough limitations," said the vice premier, who heads the Russian Federation government foreign economics department. According to Davydov, the real motives behind government decisions were misinterpreted by the IMF and the World Bank which hastened to link the extension of further credits to Russia with the freedom of oil exports from the country.

According to the vice premier, what is involved is not restrictive measures but a kind of a government study whose outcome will be an efficient mechanism allowing the government to buy the required amount of oil for processing and meeting internal needs. To this end the government needs reliable, credible information about the level of expected domestic supplies to oil refineries. Such information is to be obtained by analyzing long term contracts, balance sheets, and so forth.

The main danger in the balance of internal and foreign deliveries, according to the foreign economic relations minister, lies in that the growth of free internal oil prices lags behind: Contrary to economists' expectations, today they do not exceed 30 percent of the world price. At the same time Oleg Davydov said that the price of oil and oil products in Russia, as an oil producing country, will never reach world prices, which include substantial transportation costs.

In addition, the vice premier observed, at present the eight vertically integrated Russian oil companies, due to structural reasons, cannot direct a major part of their oil output to export, because this would lead to stoppages or closure of their oil refineries.

Davydov accepted IMF experts' comments on the limited access for foreign companies to Russian oil pipelines, stressing that these limitations are not discriminatory and are due to a shortage of facilities for pumping oil to the far abroad. A complete resolution of this problem, Oleg Davydov stressed, is impossible without building new terminals and oil pipelines with the participation of foreign companies themselves.

Consumer Costs Rise 5.3 Percent

MM2712133794 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 27 Dec 94 p 2

[BIZNES-TASS report: " 'Basket' Gets Dearer"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 26 Dec—The cost of the consumer basket in Russia in the period 14-20 December increased by 5.3 percent to 101,100 rubles [R] calculated over the course of the month, BIZNES-TASS was told yesterday by the Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics.

The difference between the maximum and minimum cost of the consumer basket in Russia was 4.7 times. The consumer basket costs R123,700 in Moscow and R102,300 in St. Petersburg—6.8 and 2.5 percent dearer than last week respectively. The Russian capital ranks 19th out of the 130 cities surveyed when it comes to the cost of the consumer basket.

Moscow Earmarks 40 Billion Rubles for Food

LD2712153594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1449 GMT 27 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 27 (INTERFAX)—The expenditures section of the Moscow budget will be increased by 40 billion rubles. The money will be channeled for buying foodstuffs. This decision was taken by the Moscow government on Monday, a spokesman for the Moscow Mayor's Office told INTERFAX on Tuesday.

At the same time, financial appropriations were reduced by 40 billion rubles for the Moscow Engineering Department for the fourth quarter of 1994, the spokesman said.

Military Issues

Plane Crashes Following Test Flight

LD2712060994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0525 GMT 27 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alexey Tsvetkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Komsomolsk-on-Amur (Russian Far East) December 27 (TASS)—A Russian plane crashed in the Far East on Monday evening when its engine unexpectedly went dead seconds before touchdown.

The plane, a Su-27 fighter, was returning from a test flight to the airfield of the aircraft-building factory in Komsomolsk-on-Amur.

The pilot, Nikolay Nesnov, escaped unscathed after frantic attempts to restart the engine before jetissoning on orders from his superiors. He landed safely as the plane hit the ground meters away from the landing strip.

No airfield structures or buildings were damaged.

A special commission is already at work trying to establish what caused the failure.

Federation Council Supports BSF Preservation

MM2612105794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Dec 94 p 5

[Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council decree No. 298-I SF, signed by Federation

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Council Chairman V. Shumeyko and dated 16 December 1994: "On the Black Sea Fleet"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having examined the appeal from officers of the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy to the Russian Federation president, the Ukrainian president, the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council and State Duma, the Ukrainian Supreme Council, the prime ministers of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and the defense ministers of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the Federation Council decrees that:

1. The proposals contained in the appeal from officers of the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy to preserve the Black Sea Fleet as an integrated operational-strategic formation operating in the southwestern naval area in the interests of Russia and Ukraine shall be supported.

2. The principle of preserving an integrated Black Sea Fleet formation in the interests of Russia and Ukraine shall be proposed as the Russian side's position when concluding a Russian-Ukrainian agreement on the Black Sea Fleet.

3. The appeal from the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council to the Russian Federation president and the Ukrainian president (appended) shall be adopted. [appeal not published].

[signed] V.F. Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council

[dated] Moscow, 16 December 1994, No. 298-I SF

Federal Assembly

Duma Adopts Statement on European Parliament, Chechnya

LD2312142694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1407 GMT 23 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—The State Duma on Friday expressed disagreement with the resolution on the situation in Chechnya adopted by the European Parliament on Thursday [22 December].

The statement adopted by the lower house of the Russian Parliament says:

"Sharing in full measure the European Parliament's concern over the destinies of democracy in Russia and going along with its opinion that political methods of settlement of the Chechen conflict are preferable, the Duma, at the same time, notes that the wording of the resolution of the European Parliament in some parts does not promote the quest for solving the crisis in the Chechen Republic, runs counter to real facts and can be regarded as interference in internal affairs of the Russian Federation. The State Duma declares:

1. The European Parliament's public support for the stance of only one part of Russia's political forces that does not represent the gamut of the country's public opinion is hardly permissible.

2. Contrary to assertions contained in the resolution of the European Parliament, free elections or a referendum have not been held in the Chechen Republic, and lawful organs of power have not been formed. In this connection, it is perplexing that the resolution mentions "independence of the Chechen Republic" allegedly adopted in 1991 and refers to General Dudayev as the "president" of Chechnya.

3. The Russian armed forces are used not to attack "ethnic minorities" but to disarm unlawful military units.

4. The wording about "the Russian military intervention in Chechnya" runs counter to the European Parliament's statement that the Chechen Republic is part of the Russian Federation.

5. "Withdrawal of the Russian armed forces" was not discussed at the talks between Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and Dzhokhar Dudayev.

6. Deplorably, the European Parliament saw no need to inform officially the parliament of the Russian Federation of the contents of its resolution and sent the resolution to the unlawful "Chechen leadership".

The statement of the lower house of the Russian Parliament stresses that "the State Duma will be striving to uphold democratic principles inherent in the Constitution of the Russian Federation, will be exerting efforts to restore constitutional law and order sooner and to ensure fundamental rights and freedoms of all citizens of the Chechen Republic regardless of their nationality".

Duma Statement Urges Chechen Combat Moratorium, Talks

LD2312155394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1511 GMT 23 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondents Pavel Kuznetsov and Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma today adopted a statement proposing that the president, the Russian Government, as well as the opposing sides in the Chechen Republic introduce an immediate moratorium on all combat actions in Chechnya and that there be a return to negotiations. The document was adopted at the suggestion of Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the Duma Security Committee. The voting was 128 deputies in favor, 38 against, and three abstentions.

[Similar reports carried by Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1527 GMT and by Moscow RIA in English at 1707 GMT cited the number of deputies in favor as 228 and 227 respectively. The figures for deputies against and abstentions matched those of the filed version.]

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Duma To Debate Extra Defense Spending After Chechen Action

LD2312171994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 23 (Interfax)—The State Duma (the lower house of Russian parliament) is to meet early next month to consider the question of extra defense spending following military operations in the breakaway republic of Chechnya. The motion was approved by 248 votes on Friday.

Although no plenary sessions are planned for the next two weeks, a number of deputies called against winding up house proceedings.

Meanwhile, the house defeated a motion by member of Russia's Choice faction Lev Ponomarev for two more sessions to be held this year in light of the situation in Chechnya.

Abdulatipov Prepares Russian-Chechen Interparliament Talks

LD2412154894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1538 GMT 24 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 24 TASS—Vice-Speaker of the Russian Federation Council Ramazan Abdulatipov has started to prepare Russian-Chechen interparliamentary talks after the Chechen speaker confirmed his readiness to continue a dialogue with the Russian federal assembly and speakers of both houses of the Russian Parliament approved of the negotiations, press aide of the vice-speaker Ruslan valiyev told ITAR-TASS today.

"It is impossible to set the talks date because of the lack of communication with Groznyy," said the aide.

Interparliamentary Chechen Talks Needed

LD2612153994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1352 GMT 26 Dec 94

[Telephone Interview with Ramazan Abdulatipov, Russian Federation Council deputy chairman, by Mayak correspondent Anton Zharov, on 26 December; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abdulatipov] Every resolution of the Federation Council and the State Duma says that holding talks with the Chechen side and settling the problems by peaceful political means is a priority. Unfortunately, not one of these resolutions is working. In view of this, in my capacity as head of the monitoring commission from the Federation Council, I decided, after consulting the chairman of the Federation Council, to convene a Federal Assembly parliamentary delegation for these talks.

All the necessary arrangements have been made with the Chechen side. They are ready to hold talks. Dagestan is ready to host them. But unfortunately at the last moment, when we were getting ready to depart, we were told, primarily by the leadership of the State Duma, that I have no powers, and can only go as a private individual.

The view that interparliamentary talks must be held in order to outline conditions to bring the situation in the Chechen Republic back to normal was backed by the president of the Russian Federation.

I'd like to go ahead and leave without any powers, but in this situation the Chechen side says that it is, of course, ready to meet me, but they want the delegation coming from Moscow to have at least some powers. At present, every hour brings new casualties, and I agree with them on that; I noted it in my very first telegram.

Our hands are virtually tied. If this situation continues, I think I will have to demand that an urgent session of the Federal Assembly should convene in order to make our views known and not to shirk our responsibility.

We must hold talks not just with the parliament, but with all the sides there are. We have no right to lose the Chechen people because of a conflict with Dudayev.

[Zharov] Ramazan Gadzhimuratovich, does the fact that you have not been granted any powers mean that the Russian side refuses to resolve the conflict peacefully?

[Abdulatipov] I cannot say it does. Everyone I speak to talks of the need for and the priority of a peaceful solution.

I would like to say to those who are listening to me in Chechnya and Dagestan that we are doing all we can to stop the bloodshed and to come out of this situation preserving the honor and dignity of the Chechen people—and I am not at all interested in Dudayev in this context—the honor and dignity of the peoples of the Caucasus, and the honor and dignity of the Russian state, the Russian Federation, and most of all the Russian people, because it is these [word indistinct] notions that the consequences of this conflict affect.

Delays Trip to Negotiate with Chechens

LD2612175094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 26. (INTERFAX)—Federation Council Deputy Chairman Ramazan Abdulatipov put off his trip to Makhachkala where he was supposed to negotiate with Chechen legislators.

Federation Council press office head Yuriy Algunov told Interfax that upper house speaker Vladimir Shumeyko had held a conference with his deputies following his return from a meeting of the National Security Council. Shumeyko told them that the council had discussed all the issues in the Chechen crisis, notably the possibility of talks with leaders of the illegal militias. The National Security Council, Shumeyko said, empowered Nikolay

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Yegorov, Sergey Stepashin and General Anatoliy Kvashnin, who is in charge of the Chechnya operation, to negotiate, on behalf of the Russian president and with a Russian parliament delegation in attendance, the cessation of resistance and surrender of arms by the separatists.

Sources in the Federation Council say that, following the National Security Council meeting today, more active political steps would be taken leading to settlement of the Chechen crisis, with the emphasis placed on peaceful means and that the council would prefer to hold talks with one group of people rather than with various people in various places.

Duma: Abdulatipov Not Authorized for Chechnya Talks

LD2412200394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1949 GMT 24 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 24 TASS—The press service of the Russian State Duma told ITAR-TASS tonight it "did not decide to authorize Ramazan Abdulatipov to hold negotiations with any persons or organizations of the Chechen Republic".

A statement to the effect was made because of today's report of the press adviser of the Federal Assembly vice-chairman saying that "Ramazan Abdulatipov has started to prepare interparliamentary negotiations between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic on coordination with chairmen of both chambers of the Federal Assembly and after the Chechen speaker confirmed his agreement to continue the interparliamentary dialogue".

Chechen Official Says Talks Possible With Russian Presence

LD2612085394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] There was relative calm in Groznyy last night. There were no air strikes, Vice President of Chechnya Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev told INTERFAX. The situation along the line of confrontation between Dzhokhar Dudayev's units and Russian troops near Groznyy has also remained stable, he said.

Yandarbiyev has denied official statements by Moscow that Groznyy has been completely blockaded by Russian troops. He says that Russian subdivisions control only a third of the perimeter of the town. Chechnya's Vice President has told INTERFAX that talks are possible between Moscow and Groznyy with Russian troops still in Chechnya. He said that the situation could be halted at its present stage, talks could be started and the question of the troops' presence could be discussed first. Yandarbiyev thinks that a communique on the situation could be adopted during these talks, that a talks agenda could be worked out and that all emerging questions could be settled step by step.

Meanwhile, a parliamentary delegation has been set up in Groznyy for talks with Russia. The Chechen parliament decided yesterday that talks should be started. According to Radio Liberty, such talks could take place today.

Vlasov Escapes Death by Korzhakov Hit Squad

MM2312201194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Dec 94 p 4

[Report by Gennadiy Seleznev: "Korzhakov Versus Vlasov?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by Deputy Yuriy Vlasov was circulated at the State Duma on 23 December:

"Yesterday evening, 22 December, my car, a Volga, was wrecked. There was just one aim here: to kill me. But the people who arranged the accident did not notice in the darkness that I had left the car somewhat earlier. The car was rammed by a dump truck which demolished the car's front end. The driver managed to take evading action.

"A Zhiguli car was involved in the organization of this accident. The crowd prevented it from getting away. The dump truck drove off almost immediately. I immediately summoned my assistant, a former deputy chief of KGB military counterintelligence, who established that the team in the Zhiguli consisted of staffers of the Main Directorate for the Protection of the President, which is headed by General Korzhakov. My assistant managed to get through to the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] main computer, which produced information on the Zhiguli. The vehicle in question belonged to a firm called Ksenon, whose address was given as 'care of: The Main Post Office.' However, the computer did provide a telephone number: 284-42-08. The computer also revealed that the firm has another two cars with the same registration plate: 37-47 MMA. Further information on the firm was revealed showing that it belongs to the Main Directorate for the Protection of the President.

"The Zhiguli was fitted with external monitoring and special communications equipment. Staffers did not deny that they belonged to the special service organs. A senior official from the special service organs arrived at the scene of the accident. He too did not deny his membership of the secret service but denied that he belonged to the Federal Counterintelligence Service. After analyzing the situation, officers of the State Motor Vehicle Inspection Administration stated that the accident had been caused deliberately and to order. But they cannot name the organization which arranged it because of its secrecy and refused point blank to discuss the matter further.

"I am not in the least surprised by Gen. Korzhakov's actions: After all, it is he who heads the list of people who directed the bloody carnage of 3-5 October 1993 in Moscow..."

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Chubays Says Government Will Not Increase Deficit

LD2312174694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1536 GMT 23 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—"The Government will stay firm on its positions. It was not prepared to increase the deficit and change the concept of the budget, and it is even less so now that the concept has been endorsed by the State Duma", First Deputy Premier Anatoliy Chubays told reporters on Thursday [as rececived]. He commented on the results of the voting in the State Duma that passed the first reading of the 1995 draft state budget.

Chubays believes the passage of the document in the first reading means that deputies approve of the concept of the budget "which envisages the reduction of the deficit, the lowering of the inflation rate and tightening of spending of all kinds".

He said the first reading is always the most difficult one and required considerable effort. But the result was quite good, in the opinion of the first deputy premier. "I am optimistic enough about the passage of the budget. It may be adopted in the second, third and fourth reading", Chubays said.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Addresses Nation on Chechnya

LD2712123094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1140 GMT 27 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 27 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—Here follows the address by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin on the situation in the Chechen Republic, which he will deliver today on television:

"Esteemed citizens of Russia!

"I speak to you in connection with the state of affairs in the Chechen Republic. It has been extremely complex for a long time. This has led to mounting concern among the people of Russia.

"Questions are being asked: What is happening in the republic? Why are Russian troops in Chechnya? First I shall answer the main question.

"Russian soldiers are defending Russia's unity. This is an essential condition for the existence of the Russian state. The Chechen Republic is part of the Russian Federation, whose composition is enshrined in the constitution. No territory has the right to leave Russia.

"The second point: the elections of the president of Chechnya were held essentially in conditions of martial law and only in certain districts of the then existing Chechen-Ingush Republic.

"The present leadership of Chechnya was not recognized either by the former legitimate authorities of Chechnya or by the federal authorities of the Russian Federation or the world community.

"Hence there is only one conclusion: the regime in Groznyy is unlawful and it has violated the fundamental requirements of the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

"The Groznyy regime has been deliberately destroying the statehood of the Chechen Republic. Today there are neither authorities there, nor law. Only armed units personally devoted to Dudayev have been reinforced.

"Political life in the republic has gradually become displaced by confrontation among armed groups. On occasions this has taken the form of bloody clashes. Chechnya has become divided into several zones, each with its own leaders and illegal armed units.

"The majority of the population, irrespective of their nationality, have been deprived of even the narrowest scope for exerting any influence on the course of events. Any dissent or the slightest disagreement with or criticism of the regime could have cost them their lives. Armed mayhem has become the order of the day on Chechen soil.

"Over 200,000 people of various nationalities have been banished from the republic.

"Over the past three years the federal authorities have sought persistently to persuade the so-called 'Chechen leaders' that it is impossible to live inside Russia while being outside Russia. But the longer it has gone on, the more aggressive and offensive has Groznyy's conduct become. Negotiations have been thwarted.

"The Chechen Republic has turned into the main stronghold of political extremism. It has become a focal point for all extremist and nationalist forces.

"There is one more factor which I cannot overlook. The Groznyy regime has used force to drive Chechen society down the path of crime. The population of Chechnya has, in effect, been forced to fend for itself. The republic's economy has been ruined. Law enforcement has come to a halt. Violence and robbery have become everyday occurrences, while arbitrariness has become the guiding principle of life."

"The republic is flooded with weapons, which anyone can use as they wish.

"Promotion of unlawful activity throughout Russia and abroad has become one of the main policies of Groznyy. Over 1,000 criminals sought by the federal authorities have found refuge in the Chechen Republic.

"The regime established in that republic has become a source of great criminal danger first and foremost to Russia. This means not only the so-called 'Chechen or

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Russian mafias' but to no less, and possibly greater, extent organized criminal gangs from other states.

"I think that everyone clearly remembers the criminal acts of the past years in Rostov-on-Don, Mineralnyye Vody, and Makhachkala. It was to Chechnya that the terrorists ran, to hide from the courts and from just punishment.

"Robbery of trains passing through Chechnya has become rife and a real tragedy. In this year alone 120 trains were robbed. The railway has been reduced to ruins. The damage done amounts to hundreds of billions of rubles.

"Criminal gangs from Chechnya have been actively involved in theft of money through use of false payment orders and checks on a grand scale. The damage done to the country amounts to 4 trillion rubles. Printing of counterfeit currency in the Chechen Republic has inflicted huge damage on Russia's financial system.

"The activity of Chechen groupings in the sphere of the narcotics business has recently intensified. A route has been formed across the republic for convoys carrying narcotics and weapons. The arms market has become a source of criminal income for the regime. Groznyy has increasingly actively provoked armed conflicts to increase the sale of firearms.

"The main conclusion is: The situation in the Chechen Republic is to an ever greater degree exerting a destructive effect upon the stability of Russia. It has become one of the main internal threats to the security of our state. Rapidly restoring constitutional order in the Chechen Republic was the only way to normalize life on that territory.

"The question is frequently beiong heard now: Did the state have the right to undertake forceful actions in Chechnya?

"Believe me, this is one of the most complex questions. Citizens of the Russian Federation have long and justly reproached us for indecisiveness, for a lack of political will, for an absence of desire to impose order on the territory of the Chechen Republic - an inalienable part of Russia. The extremely complex situation has demanded that we adopt a very grave solution - the application of armed force on the territory of Chechnya.

"I can only express my regret about the utterances of certain figures who are attempting to blame the federal authorities of thirsting for blood, who are striving to denigrate any actions by the organs of authority in Russia. Among them are unfortunately also those who are doing this - and let us speak directly - for the advantage of their political ambitions.

"I am keeping a special check on everything that is taking place in the Chechen Republic. I know that the Chechen leaders are doing a great deal to split the central authorities on the issue of the crisis in the republic.

"I am aware that Chechen money is involved in the operation of some of Russia's mass media. At the same time, I wish to thank the leadership of the Caucasian republics for their support of the actions of the federal authorities in restoring order, confiscating weapons, and eliminating the hotbeds of crime in the Chechen Republic.

"We are conducting a difficult dialogue with the deputies of both chambers of the Federal Assembly. On the main issue our positions do coincide: political solutions to the Chechen crisis must be sought. But you can see for yourselves that Chechnya's present leadership has set itself different goals,

"The restoration of legality and law and order in the republic is arousing fierce opposition from nationalist and extremist forces. Their calculation is clear, especially if one takes into account the tragic history of the Chechen people. It is thus all the more important to make everyone in the republic aware of what the real state of affairs is and what choice the Chechen people are actually faced with.

"That choice is not great: either the restoration of normal life, or the swallowing up of Chechnya by the criminal world. In the second case, there can be no question of any freedom, or any independence or any security whatsoever.

"I would like in particular to talk about the mission of subunits of federal troops and internal affairs bodies, which are currently in the Chechen Republic.

"Russian soldiers and militiamen have found themselves in the forefront of the fight against the most dangerous, powerful and brazen forces of Russian and international crime and extremism.

"By deceit, by playing on patriotic and religious feelings, by bribery and by threats these forces have succeeded in drawing some of the local people into the fight. Among those who are putting up resistance there are professional terrorists and mercenaries from other states.

"Soldiers and officers, staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, you have been sent to Chechnya to protect Russia's state interests and the interests of all the peoples of our country. You are under the protection of the state and the Russian Constitution and under personal protection of the president.

"A specific task has been set before you: to disarm bandit formations and to ensure that heavy weapons are either surrendered or destroyed.

"Remember that unbridled banditry on the Chechen soil threatens our entire country. It could claim your relatives among its victims.

"Remember that our common goal is to help the Chechen people to get out of the calamity it has been thrown into, to help it rebuild normal, peaceful, and quiet life.

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"I understand that the military are finding things hard today. You are in difficult conditions and you have not been treated with affection by mass media. But I ask you to make every effort to carry out your task. And I believe you will do it.

"The efforts of servicemen and the militia are already yielding results. The first stage of the resolution of the crisis has been completed. The ring around Groznyy has been closed. The armed groupings are blockaded.

"In a number of localities, the sub-units of the armed forces have destroyed concentrations of the illegal armed groupings and heavy combat equipment. The activities of the gangs which resist will continue to be stopped with all severity.

"Control has been established along the perimeter of the borders of the Chechen Republic. The flow of arms, drugs, and counterfeit money to Russia has been halted. This has had a positive effect on the situation in the country.

"However, the citizens of Russia continue to die and there is an ever greater destruction. I speak of this with pain. I know that many people have currently been prevented from leaving Groznyy.

"It is all the more important to secure conditions allowing civilians to leave Groznyy. At the same time, it is necessary to organise a continuous operation of the checkpoints, to prevent weapons from seeping out beyond the bounds of the blockaded zone.

"A large number of armed people still remain in Groznyy. Attempts by their formations to break out from the city are not ruled out. One can imagine how they will behave as they do so. That is why I cannot but share the concern of the local population, caused by the departure of the Russian military until the tasks set for the military have been completed.

"There are among the leadership in Groznyy those who are aware that resistance by the armed formations is senseless. Law and order on the territory of the Chechen Republic will be restored.

"Groznyy has to be cleansed of criminal elements as soon as possible.

"The Gordian knot of the Chechen crisis can be cut. But at too high a price - the price of Russian citizens' lives. For the sake of saving people's lives I have given instructions that bombing strikes which could lead to fatalities among the civilian population of Groznyy be ruled out.

"The road to a political settlement remains open. Nikolay Yegorov, Sergey Stepashin, and Anatoliy Kvashnin are authorized to hold negotiations on behalf of the president of Russia. With the involvement of the commissions which have been set up by the Federation Council and the State Duma, they are ready to embark on negotiations with the leaders of the illegal armed formations. The subject of the negotiations is a cease-fire and the surrender of weapons.

"A Supervisory Commission is now being set up to monitor human rights in restoring constitutional law and order in Chechnya. I expect that the elders and the religious authorities of the people will take an active part in this Commission.

"The resolution of everyday civilian tasks has already begun in the republic. The new local authorities are getting down to work. People are being given material assistance and they are being supplied with food and medicines.

"We have to help in restoring the operation of hospitals, clinics and schools, in securing the protection of oil-fields, and in preparing for the spring sowing. I have given instructions for teachers, doctors and other specialists to be sent to the republic."

"The postal service has not functioned in Chechnya for a year and a half. Communication lines are down. The amount in pensions alone that is owed in the republic is 105 billion rubles. All funds earlier paid out for these purposes were used by the Groznyy leadership to buy weaponry.

"Aid is already arriving in Chechnya from other regions of the Russian Federation, and this effort will be expanded. I wish to note the work done by members of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the Federal Migration Service. In extremely difficult conditions they are operating in an organized manner and achieving results.

"I turn to the leaders of all ministries and government agencies in Russia. Do not wait for special instructions. Start working in the Chechen Republic. Help establish life in peace.

"In a word, there is much to do. We feel that the civilian population, tormented by deprivation, wishes for a normal life. This, one hopes, will be restored as soon as possible. One can understand their wish!

"As president of Russia, I guarantee that Groznyy was and will remain a city in which Chechens and Russians and other nationalities live. Nothing will stand in the way of residents' return to the capital or other populated areas of Chechnya.

"The most important condition today for the organization of normal life in the republic is the enlistment for this of those whom the Chechen people trust. I shall not define in advance the form of such representation. This will become a subject of negotiation in the near future.

"In order to normalize the situation it is necessary for the local authorities to resume their operations. Together with the Territorial Administration of the Federal Authorities in the Chechen Republic, they will organize the economy and provide citizens with a normal life.

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"The paramount task is to restore the Chechen section of the North Caucasus railway. This is truly a vital route not only for Chechnya but for all the republics of the Northern Caucasus and the Transcaucasus.

"A task for the future is to prepare the conditions for holding elections - in accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution and its laws - after the situation has been resolved.

"Everything depends now on the armed people in Chechnya who are opposing the legitimate Russian authorities. I am counting on their good will and common sense.

"Once more I want to address all the people of Chechnya and the other republics of the Northern Caucasus. The Chechen people need help and support at this difficult time. I believe in the age-old wisdom of the mountain peoples. I believe that you will fathom it all and help those who today are deceived and blinded to do the same.

"Russia is not an enemy of the Muslims. Every people living on its territory has the right to maintain its ethnic identity and its traditions.

"We all want one thing: that life in the Chechen Republic should take a peaceful course as quickly as possible. The destiny of the Chechen people must be determined not by the leaders of the criminal world, not by those who have the most weapons and fighters. Only the people themselves must decide what is to be done. So be it!

"I want to reassure all the people of Russia. Do not be alarmed: order and peace will be restored in Chechnya. What is more, measures will be taken to rule out any delay in resolving this difficult problem. We reached agreement on this point at yesterday's Security Council meeting."

Yeltsin Opposes Air Strikes Against Civilians

LD2712111494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1110 GMT 27 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 27 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin said on Tuesday that he had ordered to halt air strikes at city quarters of the Chechen capital.

In his televised address to the Russian people, the president stressed that he had issued an order to "exclude any bombing of Groznyy which might cause civilian casualties".

Yeltsin noted that there is still a path towards a political settlement in Chechnya. Russia's negotiators are ready to start talks with Groznyy's leaders on ceasefire and the surrender of weapons by the illegal armed groups, the president stressed.

Yeltsin assured the people that law, order and peace will be restored to the Chechen capital. He added that Groznyy must be purged of criminal elements very soon, and measures have been taken to rule out any delay in solving this problem.

Yegorov Chairs Supervisory Commission Meeting

LD2712094394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0901 GMT 27 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 27 Dec—The first sitting of the Supervisory Commission to organize the negotiating process in Chechnya was held behind closed doors in the Federation Council today, chaired by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Yegorov. The sitting was attended by Deputy Federation Council chairmen Ramazan Abdulatipov and Anatoliy Dolgolaptev and by deputies of both Federal Assembly chambers who are members of the commission. Nikolay Yegorov told journalists after the sitting ended that those taking part had "agreed, that when the conditions and opportunities for conducting negotiations arise—and Yegorov, Stepashin and Kvashnin have been appointed for this purpose—then supervisory commissions of both chambers will be present while the negotiations are under way and will carry out their functions."

Nikolay Yegorov declined to answer journalists' questions about details of the sitting and about the understandings reached.

Defense Ministry Confirms Dismissals

MK2712140094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Pavel Felgengauer under the "Reshuffles" rubric: "Perestroyka Starts in Defense Ministry. General Gromov is Being Ousted From the Army Into Politics"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Sergey Yushenkov stated that an edict on the dismissal of three deputy ministers, Major Generals Gromov, Kondratyev, and Mironov was being prepared. Sources in the Defense Ministry unofficially confirmed this information.

The serious conflict between Pavel Grachev and Boris Gromov began back in August when the latter together with his wife made a trip to Israel to briefly tour the Wailing Wall, Calvary, and other holy sites in Jerusalem. Gen. Gromov was in Cyprus on vacation but no one in the Defense Ministry authorized his trip to Israel. Pavel Grachev reportedly was enraged and severely punished the disobedient man—as of August, the former commander in Afghanistan has been denied permission to travel abroad.

Several months went by. However, the period of disgrace, caused by what seems to be a trifle, has not ended. Worse, people started to speak about Gromov as Pavel Grachev's possible successor. The conflict graduated to a

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public stage. During a recent anniversary party in Hotel Rossiya, Boris Gromov was supported in a rather sharp manner by Iosif Kobzon (the well-known singer and the general have many things in common since the Afghan war era).

Early in December, Boris Gromov publicly condemned the president's policy in Chechnya. It became clear he would be dismissed on the first suitable occasion. Gromov's earlier record also includes some political "sinning"—participating in the presidential election (against Boris Yeltsin) and signing the "Letter to the People" in August 1991. Now he is likely to become a purely political general.

The two other deputy ministers—Valeriy Mironov and Georgiy Kondratyev—have evinced no special political preferences yet. But neither has been having very good relations with Gen. Grachev. This has long been the case with Valeriy Mironov, and since September with Georgiy Kondratyev. The Chechen war has strengthened the rigid interdependence of Boris Yeltsin and Pavel Grachev. The latter has obviously taken advantage of the chance to shake up his staff. The more so because it is now time for a structural adjustment in his agency. More dismissals and appointments are clearly inevitable.

Infantry Regiment Arrives in Chechnya

LD2712115394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 27 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yekaterinburg, Dec 27 (INTERFAX)—The 276th reinforced motorized infantry regiment, shaped on the basis of the 32nd division located in Yekaterinburg (the Urals), has arrived in the zone of the Chechen conflict.

The headquarters of the Urals Military District told INTERFAX that the regiment had been fully manned, although its strength accounted for only 50 percent of the norm. The regiment will be in the defense minister's personal reserve.

North Caucasus Leader on Conflict, Dudayev

LD2612204394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1709 GMT 26 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 26 TASS—The Chechen opposition provisional council said that Russian troops are in Chechnya not to wage a war against the Chechen people, but in order to help them get rid of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev's regime.

Speaking at a press conference in Moscow on monday, Shmidt Dzoblayev, genereal secretary of the Assembly of the National Democratic and Patriotic Forces of Russia, said that the provisional council is categorically against talks with Dudayev. If Russian troops are ordered to leave Chechnya, the opposition will continue the fight against the Dudayev regime.

He said that Russian troops have made several mistakes during their military operation launched to destroy Dudayev's illegal armed groups. In his view, one of the big mistakes is that Russian troops allow the members of these groups to escape to the mountains.

Dzoblayev, who has just returned from a trip to the Stavropol region and the Nadterechny district of Chechnya, told the journalists that he has obtained documents and evidence of brutal crimes against civilians committed by Dudayev's militants in Chechnya. He said the documents will be presented to the president.

Tatarstan President Offers To Mediate Talks

LD2612203194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KAZAN, Dec 26 (Interfax) - Tatarstan's President Mintimer Shaymiyev said that he and numerous other head of republics incorporated in the Russian Federation were ready to mediate between Russia and Chechnya on President Boris Yeltsin's request.

Shaymiyev told Interfax Monday that talks should be held only with Dzhokhar Dudayev "who wields real power." Other kinds of talks, such as with parliamentary delegations, will not result in cessation of hostilities, he believes.

Shaymiyev argued that the Russian negotiators must be headed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin "because human lives are more important than ambitions."

Chechens Deny Russian Reports About Argun

LD2612174894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran, Dec 26 (Interfax)—Member of the Chechen Government Bauddi Tsomayev has denied reports that nearly 1,000 Dudayev militants were killed near Argun not far from Groznyy on December 25.

"We lost 27 people. More than 50 were wounded," he told Interfax in Nazran (Ingushetia) on Monday.

Tsomayev also said that the Russian troops had failed to seize Argun.

He also said that the purpose of his coming to Nazran was "to get in touch with the State Duma through Ingushetia, as the Chechen telephone exchange has been ruined, and to discuss the forthcoming talks in Makhachkala."

'National Rebirth' Government Formed in Chechnya

LD2612113094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1042 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 26 TASS—The press centre of the Russian Government circulated the following report on Monday:

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"A government of national rebirth has been set up on a coalition basis by the democratic opposition and the provisional council of the Chechen Republic. The government is headed by Salambek Khadzhiyev.

"Academician Salambek Khadzhiyev is a member of the council of the Daimokhk Democratic Movement of the Chechen Republic and chairman of the North Caucasian Democratic Congress.

"Khadzhiyev is 53 years old. He was born in Shali village of the Chechen Republic into the family of an office worker. Upon graduating from the Groznyy Petroleum Institute and taking a post-graduate course at Moscow's M.V. Lomonosov State University, he worked at the Groznyy Petroleum Research Institute, rising from a junior research fellow to the institute's director.

"In 1991 Khadzhiyev was appointed the Soviet minister of the chemical and oil-processing industries. Later on, he was again appointed the director of the Groznyy Petroleum Research Institute and headed the petrochemistry laboratory of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He has the scientific degree of doctor and has the rank of professor. He is full member of the Russian Engineering Academy, full member of the International Islamic Academy and a corresponding member of Russian Academy of Sciences.

"His political position is Chechnya's consent to be viewed as a full and equal member of the community of the peoples of the Russian Federation.

"Khadzhiyev currently works on the territory of the Chechen Republic.

"Salambek Khadzhiyev arrived in Moscow on the night from Sunday to Monday".

The press centre also announced that Khadzhiev is to hold a news conference in Moscow on Monday.

Khadzhiyev Criticizes Developments

LD2612164994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1620 GMT 26 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 26 TASS—The Chechen opposition is not involved in the development, let alone adoption of Russian Security Council decisions on conflict settlement in Chechnya, one of the Chechen opposition leaders, Salambek Khadzhiyev, said.

Speaking at a press conference in Moscow on Monday, Khadzhiyev, who also heads the Chechen government of national revival, said that "the number of mistakes made and those which still may be made by the military in the settlement of the Chechen conflict is beyond reckoning."

Russian soldiers in Chechnya "are putting up an all-round defence as they feel a cautious attitude towards themselves even from civilians who cannot help responding to the presence of a large number of troops. This creates a dangerous situation in the republic," Khadzhiyev said.

The republican government of national revival is against air strikes on Groznyy, because they increase the sufferings of the most deprived part of the residents of the city who have no means to leave the capital, Khadzhiyev said.

The government of national revival also opposes attacks on Groznyy, but if such an attack occurs, it should be carried out "not by 18-year-old kids, but by specially trained elite military units," he added.

Khadzhiyev blasted some democratic forces in Moscow for demanding measures to enforce the rights of people in Chechnya following the deployment of Russian troops in the republic. These people, he continued, failed to notice how Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev ordered his tanks to fire at demonstrators in Groznyy when they demanded free elections.

He pointed out that the Dudayev regime is an authoritarian one. Its major force is 1,200-1,300 criminals, including those at large from the CIS, 1,500 mercenaries from abroad and about 1,000 religious fanatics.

The government of national revival formed on October 20-23, 1994 includes intellectuals and representatives of the economic elite. The government opposes the use for force in settling the conflict in Chechnya and calls for measures to restore the republic's economy and stabilise living standards in Chechnya. It hopes these measures will eventually force Dudayev to resign and create conditions for free elections in the republic.

The government is supported in the Nadterechny district, some parts of the Urus-Martan, Shali, Gudermes, Groznyy and other districts, as well as some parts of Groznyy itself. The government leader is Salambek Khadzhiyev, doctor of sciences. In 1991 Khadzhiyev headed the Chechen Ministry of Chemical and Petrochemical Industry.

Attacks Dudayev Regime

LD2612155594 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1308 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Esteemed listeners, together with you we will listen to a telephone report from our special correspondent Vladimir Pasko. Today he was present at a meeting with Academician Salambek Khadzhiyev, who heads the Chechen government of national reconciliation.

[Pasko] [Passage omitted] I would like to say straight away that he has just come to Moscow to take part in a meeting on day-to-day matters. Khadzhiyev said he intends to raise the issue of economic aid to the Chechen Republic at the meeting.

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Salambek Khadzhiyev's news conference lasted for over an hour, and I would like to highlight the most important parts.

First, the most important thing to us is that Khadzhiyev drew the attention of the journalists to the one-sided presentation of the events in Chechnya. Why does the press not speak about the arbitrary rule imposed by the Dudayev regime in Chechnya? he asked. Why doesn't the press write about how Dudayev came to power? Why doesn't it write about the present regime's encroachment on basic human rights?

Khadzhiyev compared Dudayev's regime with that of Hitler. Dudayev's regime is very dangerous, he said. Dudayev thinks that all means are good to achieve one's aim.

Khadzhiyev went on to say that no one is against sovereignty, but not by using the methods Dudayev has adopted.

Speaking about the present state of affairs, Khadzhiyev said: We are against the present bombing of Groznyy. In this respect he directly placed the blame on the military leadership of Russia, and said that the military has done a clumsy job. [passage omitted]

According to Khadzhiyev, Dudayev has at his disposal—in fact he confirmed the information we have already reported—a thousand criminals have been released from prisons, many of whom are wanted by law enforcement bodies in Russia, and which have been sheltered by Dudayev, 1,500 mercenaries—he named some countries, but I just failed to jot them all down, but they are not only from Afghanistan and extreme nationalists from Ukraine—and about 1,000 mountain people. [passage omitted]

Khadzhiyev flatly denies that Dudayev's regime has any legitimacy. He especially dwelled on this issue. He gave examples of how there were no real elections held in the country. The voting in favor of Dudayev was carried out at gun-point, something he had witnessed himself. He said: Our aim is to hold free elections.

All those present were, naturally, especially interested in the issue of relations with Russia. He pointed out that this issue should be decided by a referendum. [passage omitted]

Another problem that Khadzhiyev pointed out was to create working places for the mountain people, the most underprivileged part of the republic's population, since Dudayev is specifically having the support from this part of the population by using lies. [passage omitted]

Dudayev Aide on 'National Rebirth'

LD2612143594 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1300 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It was announced in Moscow today that a government of national rebirth has been set up in Chechnya. [passage omitted]

Groznyy learned about the government being set up from an Ekho Moskvy correspondent. The Chechen president's aide, Movlen Salamov, has said that the government of national rebirth is one of the Federal Counterintelligence Service's structures.

Government Reports on Groznyy Refugee Forces

LD2612152094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1407 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 26 TASS—The press service of the Russian Government has forwarded the following report to ITAR-TASS today:

"Chechen refugees report that the following special formations are operating in Groznyy:

- The municipal police (in plain clothes and armed with pistols), which control rallies;

- Omon (riot police wearing black berets with a sign of the Chechen national flag on the left-hand side and a sign of a wolf on the right). The Omon is armed with submachine guns and anti-tank grenades;

- Chechen national guards recruiting citizens of Groznyy to fight within the city boundaries;

- The people's self-defence wearing black woolen hats and predominantly consisting of rural residents;

- Mercenaries (dressed in a camouflage uniform of different types);

- Masked groups (those who declared blood feud);

Weapons have been offered for sale (a Kalashnikov submachine gun costs 500 dollars);

The bulk of the Russian-speaking population remains in Groznyy and is not allowed to leave the city. Men are being forced to join self-defence units, and are threatened to be shot dead in case of refusal.

The Russian-speaking population has refused to flee to the mountains. The main flow of refugees is headed for Ingushetia, and another one moves in the direction of North Ossetia to Pesan airport."

Migration Service on Chechen Refugees

LD2612120994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Russia's Federal Migration Service, 1,204 enforced migrants from the conflict zone have turned to the territorial migration services of areas adjacent to the Chechen Republic during the past 24 hours.

According to the service, more than 27,000 people have left the territory of Chechnya in total since the beginning of the conflict. Most of them—17,000—are at present temporarily in Ingushetia. Almost 7,000 migrants have settled in Dagestan. There are also refugees from

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Chechnya in Stavropol, North Ossetia, Krasnodar kray, the Karachay-Cherkess, and Kabarda-Balkar Republics.

A complex situation has come about in Mineralnyye Vody, where a large number of migrants have gathered in transit. There is an acute need for foodstuffs, medicines, and personal hygiene items.

Government on Progress of Arms Surrender

LD2612114194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our observer Vladimir Pasko reports from the Russian Federation government press service.

[Pasko] Good day, esteemed listeners! To judge from the reports coming in, we can say that the situation in the Chechen republic remains difficult. According to information from the command of the internal troops subunits of the Interior Ministry and Defense Ministry, despite the blockade of Groznyy and other settlements occupied by fighters, the voluntary surrender of arms and dispersal of illegal armed formations are not taking place. Armored equipment and artillery being used by the illegal armed formations on the southwest and eastern fronts are concentrated within residential areas. All exits from Groznyy are under the control of special patrols which are preventing the population from leaving the town.

I can add to this what I reckon is a exceptionally valuable piece of information which I received today in conversation with Salambek Khadzhiyev, prime minister of the government of National Rebirth of the Chechen Republic. He has just returned from the Chechen republic. He said that the inhabitants of 80 settlements currently support Dudayev; the inhabitants of 70 settlements are against him; the inhabitants of 190 settlements are neutral. [passage omitted]

Chernomyrdin Signs Chechen Administration Decree

MM2612110994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Dec 94 p 1

[Russian Federation Government decree No. 1411, signed by Premier V. Chernomyrdin and dated 20 December 1994: "On the Territorial Administration of Federal Executive Organs in the Chechen Republic"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In execution of Russian Federation presidential edict No. 2200 "On the Restoration of Federal Territorial Organs of Executive Power on Chechen Republic Territory" of 17 December 1994, the Russian Federation Government decrees that:

1. The appended Statute on the Territorial Administration of Federal Executive Organs in the Chechen Republic shall be ratified.

2. It shall be prescribed that this statute shall be in force for the period until the Constitution and legislation of the Russian Federation are fully restored in the Chechen Republic, until the socioeconomic situation is stabilized, and until constitutional organs of representative and executive power in the Chechen Republic are set up.

3. The Russian Federation Ministry of Defense, the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Russian Federation Ministry for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters, the Russian Federation Federal Border Service, the Russian Federation Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, the Russian Federation Ministry of Culture, the Russian Federation Ministry of Education, the Russian Federation Ministry of Railways, the Russian Federation Ministry of Communications, the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Russian Federation Ministry of Social Protection of the Population, the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Transport, the Russian Federation Ministry of Labor, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice, the Russian Federation Ministry of Construction, the Russian Federation State Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision, the Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics, the Russian Federation State Customs Committee, the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property, the Russian Federation Tax Police Department, the Russian Federation Committee for State Reserves, the Russian Federation Committee for the Press, the Russian Federation Committee for Trade, the Russian Federation State Tax Service, the Russian Federal Employment Service, the Russian Federation Federal Counterintelligence Service, and the Russian Federal Migration Service shall set up territorial organs on Chechen Republic territory.

4. The Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office and the Central Bank of the Russian Federation shall set up organs and subunits on Chechen Republic territory.

5. The deputy leaders of the corresponding ministries and departments shall be charged with the leadership of the territorial federal executive organs in the Chechen Republic.

6. The Territorial Administration of Federal Executive Organs in the Chechen Republic and territorial organs of federal executive organs in the Chechen Republic subordinate to it shall be financed out of federal budget funds earmarked for the funding of federal executive organs.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance and the Russian Federation Ministry of Labor shall determine the procedure for funding the aforesaid administration.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government

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[Dated] Moscow, 20 December 1994, No. 1411

Dudayev Urges Countrymen To 'Exercise Restraint'

LD2612105294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1019 GMT 26 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sharip Asuyev and Nikolay Zagnoiko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy December 26 TASS—Dzhokhar Dudayev has urged his fellow-countrymen to exercise restraint and self-control. In a televised address broadcast on Sunday night, Dudayev said "Everything possible is being done to eliminate the aftermath of the ongoing bombardment of the towns and villages of Chechnya".

Earlier on Sunday, the Chechen Parliament stated its readiness to resume talks with Moscow at the parliamentary level. A Chechen delegation make-up has been determined.

Dudayev said in his address that the "grief of the people who have found themselves in a tragic situation is being shared by the world community".

At the same time he emphasised that in this situation the Chechens "must use every opportunity to help the Russian-speaking section of the population who find themselves under bombs in Chechnya".

The Chechen law enforcement agencies have been ordered to shoot and kill marauders on the spot.

Cannonade could still be heard in Groznyy on Monday morning. The ITAR-TASS correspondents have learned that four shops of the petroleum equipment making plant Molot were destroyed by bombs.

A Dudayev headquarters spokesman in an ITAR-TASS interview officially denied a report that 1,000 militants had been allegedly killed in fighting near Argun. One person was wounded on the Chechen side, the spokesman said.

Yeltsin Announces 'Second Stage' For 'Order'

LD2612101194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0940 GMT 26 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 26 Dec—The first stage of the process for introducing constitutional order in Chechnya in accordance with the decision of the Security Council, and with the involvement of the military, is coming to a close. The second stage envisages setting up power bodies and the corresponding services in this republic. This was announced today by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, opening a sitting of the Security Council in the Kremlin.

The head of state said the efforts by the defense and interior ministries, the Federal Counterintelligence Service and border troops to disarm illegal military groupings in Chechnya had had reasonable success, and he particularly stressed the efforts made by border guards to prevent murderers and professional killers from the Baltics, Azerbaijan and elsewhere entering Chechnya. The president believes there are tens of thousands of mercenaries fighting on Dzhokhar Dudayev's side. He expressed the hope that the Foreign Ministry would react appropriately to this.

Boris Yeltsin gave a positive assessment of the actions of the Federal Migration Service and the Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Natural Disasters. Admitting that migration is currently running at a fairly high level, the head of state pointed out that these services had been "well" prepared to receive the refugees, and had "created the necessary minimum conditions for temporary residence." Boris Yeltsin voiced his conviction that the situation in Chechnya would very soon "return to normal, and that people will be able to return to their previous places of residence".

The president thinks that protection of human rights consists in "creating normal conditions in order that people can live normally under democratic rule." In this connection he criticized the actions of Russia's Human Rights Commissioner Sergey Kovalev, who "for three years said nothing about violations of human rights in the Chechen Republic."

Boris Yeltsin gave a positive evaluation of the efforts being undertaken by the government to transport food, medicaments and other necessary consumer goods into Chechnya. "We are obliged to do this, for the Chechen Republic is an inalienable part of Russia" he stressed.

Chechen Parliament Resolves To Resume Talks

LD2512212594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The parliament of Chechnya yesterday passed a resolution authorizing its delegation to hold talks with a Russian parliamentary delegation. According to RIA-Novosti, the resolution says the Russian Federation Council's proposal that talks between Chechnya and Russia at the parliamentary level should be resumed has been received with satisfaction by the Chechen parliament. The latter is ready to resume talks, taking the entire package of previous talks between the two sides' parliamentary and working groups as a basis.

Dudayev's Forces Said To Detain Refugee Convoy

LD2512172294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1652 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Dec—Dzhokhar Dudayev's armed formations held up a vehicle convoy of the Russian Ministry for Emergencies today that had arrived in Groznyy from Nazran, and are attempting to

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detain the vehicles in the Chechen capital, the Ministry for Emergencies press service told ITAR-TASS today.

The report says the vehicle convoy, consisting of 10 buses, two ambulances, and two State Vehicle Inspectorate [GAI] vehicles, which had picked up civilians, was intending to return from the conflict zone. However, Dudayev's formations detained the vehicles, made the refugees get out and are trying to impede the vehicle convoy from leaving Groznyy, the Ministry for Emergencies press service release states.

State of Emergency Continues in North Ossetia

LD2512165094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1623 GMT 25 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladikavkaz December 25 TASS—The situation in North Ossetia's districts where the state of emergency remains in force is relatively calm, the press service of the North Ossetian president and the government said on Sunday.

Military sources confirmed that no ethnic clashes were reported in the area over the past 24 hours. Russian army units, in cooperation with local law enforcement bodies, continue to enforce the state of emergency.

The situation remains also stable in the Prigorod district, where refugees and displaced persons are returning. Head of the Prigorod district administration Gatsyr Dzagoyev told ITAR-TASS that construction brigades have stepped up work to build houses and social infrastructure in the area.

The provisional information centre of the Russian Government quoted reports by the press centre of the Russian Interior Ministry as saying earlier today that over the past 24 hours law enforcement bodies continued measures to enforce the state of emergency in parts of North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

According to the provisional information centre, sporadic gunfire broke out in the village of Chermen in the Prigorod district. No casualties were reported.

In the village of Nasyr-Yurt in the Nazran district of Ingushetia, unidentified people driving in a car threw two grenades at a post of the Interior Ministry troops about 150 meters away. No one was injured.

Over the past 24 hours, police and army patrols have searched 1,947 vehicles, the centre said.

Diaspora Leader on 'Unfounded' Terrorism Fears

LD2512143594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1346 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 25 (Interfax)—The Muscovites' fear of possible terrorist acts, allegedly nursed by the Chechens, "are absolutely unfounded", a leader of Moscow's Chechen diaspora Khamad Kurbanov, told Interfax on Sunday. Terrorist acts "are not in the interests of the republic, or, even more so, of the Moscow diaspora, whose leaders control the situation and moods in it," he said.

He also said that the rumors about "a Chechen woman" who has allegedly arrived in Moscow "to organize terrorist acts of retribution, point to the authorities' preparations for tough measures in relation to the Chechen diaspora." The diaspora leaders "know that several places have been prepared in the Moscow Region, where Chechens will be located and isolated," he said.

Kurbanov sees Chechnya's future as an "independent and sovereign republic, united with Russia". Such integration is inevitable for Chechnya, he said.

Chechens Surrender 4 Tanks, Anti-Aircraft Gun

LD2512142694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1416 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 25 TASS—The Chechen opposition has turned in four tanks and one self-propelled Shilka anti-aircraft gun in Mozdok, North Ossetia, by Sunday, the Provisional Information Center of the Russian Government quoted the press service of the office of the commander of the Russian Interior Ministry troops as saying.

The report specified that the four surrendered tanks included three T-72 tanks and one T-64a tank.

Moscow on Chechens Posing as Russian Soldiers

LD2512140994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1319 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 December (ITAR-TASS) The Russian government's press service today sent ITAR-TASS the following report:

"According to military intelligence, an illegal band formation, whose members are dressed in the uniforms of Russian servicemen, is deployed on the outskirts of the populated locality of Dolinskoye. This corroborates information received earlier about the intentions of the Groznyy leadership to use all means to cause dissatisfaction with Russian servicemen among local inhabitants. The fighters from Dolinskoye have already committed a number of hostile acts against the local population. The Command has decided to actively expose these provocateurs in army uniforms and to make extensive use of such incidents in explaining the position to the republic's inhabitants.

Intelligence bodies are reporting numerous cases of the mining of oilwells and the dismantlement of expensive equipment and control instruments at oil installations. This work is being carried out especially actively in the oil-bearing districts south of the settlement of Petropavlovskoye. Those involved in this action declare that they are on Dudayev's instructions organizing a 'second Kuwait'."

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Duma Notes Abdulatipov's Plan as 'Not Mandated'

LD2512064394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0621 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 25—The State Duma's operational centre, which had a meeting late on Saturday night, points out that "the preparation of interparliamentary talks with the Chechen republic by Ramazan Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of the Federal Assembly, has the nature of an initiative. Abdulatipov is not mandated by the State Duma to conduct such negotiations," said a state Duma press service communique, which was made available to ITAR-TASS on Sunday.

The communique was issued after Abdulatipov's press adviser, in a report made available to ITAR-TASS, pointed out that following the confirmation of consent by the Chechen parliament chief to carry on the interparliamentary dialogue between the Russian Federation and the Chechen republic, Ramazan Abdulatipov, upon getting agreement from the speakers of the two houses of the Federal Assembly, began to prepare interparliamentary talks."

Leaflets Advise Civilians To Leave Groznyy

LD2412220694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2100 GMT 24 Dec 94

[Video report by Dmitriy Buyevich from Mozdok—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yet another leaflet addressed to the inhabitants of Groznyy appeared at the Russian air base in Mozdok today. In it the command of the Russian troops offers to all civilians to leave the Chechen capital since—I am quoting—The final operation to free the town from illegal armed groups will begin in two days' time— end of quote.

About 30,000 copies of this address were to descend on Groznyy from the air today.

In Chechnya itself in the last twenty-four hours fighting continued near the town of Gudermes. According to the information of the press service of the Interior Ministry in Mozdok, 20,000 refugees from Gudermes have arrived in the Dagestan settlement of Khasav-Yurt.

There has been new irrefutable evidence that foreign mercenaries are fighting on Dudayev's side. Yesterday journalists in Mozdok were shown two citizens of Jordan captured with arms in their hands. Today's information gives evidence to the fact that the Afghan citizens are widely involved in the hostilities.

Volkogonov Sees Use of Troops as 'Justified'

LD2412172194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 24 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 24 (Interfax)—Solution to the crisis in the Chechen Republic should begin with talks to be held with official Groznyy in the Kremlin, said a member of the Presidential Council, Dmitriy Volkogonov.

"If there were a signal from Moscow, Dudayev would come at once. A fundamental solution would be reached within hours—that Chechnya remains a part of the Russian Federation, that it will sign the federative agreement," Volkogonov told Interfax.

Elections can be conducted only when Chechnya is demilitarized, when normal living conditions are established there, he said.

The presidential adviser believes that the despatch of troops to Chechnya was "justified", since "there was a need to create a sanitary cordon around Chechnya—a criminal sore on the body of Russia."

Rybkin Supports Yeltsin's Approach on Chechnya

MK2412115594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 24 Dec 94 p 2

[Sergey Parkhomenko report in the "Position" column: "Ivan Rybkin Considers Federal Administration Actions in the Chechen Republic 'Adequate'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian parliament lower house Speaker Ivan Rybkin yesterday evening announced a Duma recess for intersessional holidays which will last until 11 December. [as published] Summing up the results of the second (fall) session at a press conference called for the occasion, Rybkin described as its most outstanding achievement the fact that the deputy corps, "in spite of all the passions, has managed to adopt the first part of the Russian Civil Code—effectively the country's second, i.e., its economic, constitution."

True, the greater part of the questions the speaker had to answer bore not on the legislative process but the current political situation: mainly the Caucasian crisis and the role of legislative bodies in resolving it. Ivan Rybkin's considerations on this subjects should be generally characterized as quite open and active support for the decisions made by the executive branch. "The president has resorted to the option he had to resort to as a guarantor of the constitution.... He made an adequate decision. What it has led to is another subject," he said.

Ivan Rybkin expressed his firm conviction that the head of state "could no longer continue to use only exhortations against weapons" and complained about the absence of special formations "which should have been used against the bandits but with which we parted so frivolously in our time."

The speaker was quite approving of the deputies' contribution to the activity of the government "working group" on resolving the conflict. As for Sergey Kovalev's mission in Groznyy at the head of a small group of deputies, Rybkin assessed it in a far more restrained manner: He recalled that the person in question was "the

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presidential representative and head of the presidential human rights commission who went to the conflict area in this status and had the right to take anybody with him...."

Ivan Rybkin also observed that he considers "absolutely impermissible" those instances of discrimination against journalists working in the zone of armed confrontation of which he was aware. "Of course, I could confine myself to recalling the French saying, 'A la guerre comme a la guerre,' but I do not want to. Truthful information in such circumstances is the most precious thing because only truth will allow the ruling authority to make just decisions," the speaker said, calling on the executive branch "even in such a difficult situation strictly to adhere to the Law on the Press."

Duma Urges 'Moritorium,' Yeltsin Continues Plans

MK2412110394 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 24 Dec 94 p 1

[Reports by Petr Zhuravlev under the "Decision" rubric and by Mariya Eysmont, both under the common headline: "Duma Demands Moratorium on Military Operations in Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday evening, the State Duma urged the president and the government of Russia, as well as the warring sides in Chechnya, "to call a moratorium on military operations and to start talks." At first 223 deputies voted for the draft of a corresponding decree submitted by Defense Committee Chairman Viktor Ilyukhin (Communist Party of the Russian Federation faction), then 228 deputies during a second vote. Also approved was a State Duma statement expressing condolences to the families of those who died on both sides of the Chechen front and stressing: "our young democracies and legality are being paid for at too high a price—in human lives."

The passage of both documents yesterday was accompanied by fierce protests from the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia]. The Zhirinovskiyites were backed by Viktor Mironov of "Russia's Choice," and Yuriy Rodionov ("New Regional Policy").

The other participants in the debates demanded, in various forms, a stop to combat operations in the Chechen Republic. According to one of them, "as little as six or seven people around Boris Yeltsin" insist on solving the Chechen crisis by force, and even in the Defense Ministry more and more people are becoming disaffected.

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While President Boris Yeltsin, according to his press service, is preparing an address to the citizens of Russia presenting "his assessments of events taking place in Chechnya," and a plan "for a political settlement of the conflict," Russian Federation Air Force planes continue to raid Groznyy. The city's central areas, close to the Presidential Palace, were bombed yesterday. While no precise information on the number of casualties has come in, they described them in the Chechen Republic defense staff as "huge." According to Russian Federation government press center reports, yesterday the number of Russian servicemen casualties totalled 44 dead (20 of them are Ministry of Internal Affairs servicemen) and 116 wounded.

Yesterday, according to the Russian Federation president's press service, a "planned stage of the operation to seal off Groznyy" was completed, and motorized rifle regiments of the Siberian and Urals military districts and marine subunits moved up to the city.

Yesterday, according to the "Ekho Moskvy" radio station, a telegram came in to the Federation Council from Chechen Parliament Speaker Akhyad Idigov who proposed that talks be urgently started "on the basis of the drafted documents on delimitation of powers between the power organs of Russia and Chechnya."

Dudayev Calls Yeltsin 'Carbon Copy of Stalin'

LD2412093294 Berlin DDP/ADN in German 0120 GMT 24 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamburg (DDP/ADN)—Chechen President Dudayev has accused Russian President Yeltsin of being a "bloodsucker" and "carbon copy of Stalin." Dudayev announced that he no longer wants to negotiate with the Russian leadership until all troops have left his country. "We won't be treated the way our brothers in Bosnia are being treated," Dudayev said in an interview with BILD AM SONNTAG.

He does not believe Russia will succeed in occupying Chechnya, Dudayev said. The Russian leadership will not pull through either in domestic policy or in military terms. If, nevertheless, there is an occupation, the Chechen army will carry on fighting underground.

Yerin on 'Inevitable' Use of Force in Chechnya

MM2312195594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Dec 94 First Edition p 2

[Report by Vladimir Klimov: "Aftereffect of Chechnya Not Felt in Capital. The Use of Force Was the Only Measure Capable of Halting the Orgy of Crime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Viktor Yerin was tough and objective in his assessment of his subordinates' actions aimed at ensuring citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms and protecting them from criminal encroachment when he spoke at an enlarged collegium of the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs]. In his opening address the minister noted that the crime situation in the country is bound to be affected by the situation in and around Chechnya.

I have spent the past few days directly in the area of the events and I saw for myself once more that in the

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prevailing situation the use of force was inevitable and the only measure capable of halting the orgy of violence in the republic, Viktor Yerin stressed.

In the three years since it split from Russia, Chechnya has been turned into a totally criminalized zone living by theft, contraband, and illicit trafficking in weapons and drugs.

In eight months of this year alone, around 1,700 freight cars and containers have been plundered on the Groznyy section of the North Caucasus Railroad. The losses amounted to over 11 billion rubles.

Hundreds of criminals who have committed unlawful acts in Dagestan, Ingushetia, and Stavropol Kray, which border on Chechnya, have found refuge on the republic's territory.

The "cancer" of crime has spread from the republic to other parts of the country. The terrorist groups who took hostages in Mineralnyye Vody this year were trained there. Of those people prosecuted this year for forgery, one in three hail from Chechnya. Inhabitants of the Chechen Republic make up 42 percent of those people involved in cases of embezzlement in the credit and financial system in the first half of the year.

While corrupt officials and blackmarketeers have been getting rich the republic's working population have been leading a life of semipoverty and with no rights. In Groznyy and other population centers the so-called field commanders—in other words, simply gangsters and criminals—have been operating virtually uncontrolled. All attempts at resistance are brutally suppressed by them.

"So long as there was a hope that healthy forces in the republic would gain the upper hand and resolve the problem by political methods and without bloodshed, strong-arm solutions were not attempted," V. Yerin noted. "But the events of fall this year showed that Dudayev's criminal regime was on the brink and would not stop at mass violence against its own people in order to cling onto power."

Due tribute must be paid to the internal troops servicemen and internal affairs organs staffers from many parts of the country who are carrying out their military and official duty restoring the constitutional rule of law to the Chechen Republic's territory.

The minister said that questions relating to the selection of people for this hot spot in the country are decided most carefully. This conclusion was confirmed at a press conference by Deputy Interior Minister Aleksandr Kulikov. The MVD's forces are setting up checkpoints on the Chechen Republic's territory and around 800 militiamen are in operation there. Their purpose is to organize the work of restoring the organs of government and ensuring the observance of the rule of law on the republic's territory.

Unfortunately, losses are inevitable. According to the statistics as of yesterday 20 internal affairs servicemen have died and 30 people have been wounded.

Aleksandr Kulikov told journalists that as a result of the heightened security measures taken in Moscow in connection with the events in Chechnya the number of crimes committed in the Russian capital has fallen noticeably. In the past few days MVD organs have not registered even one "mafia showdown" in the capital. The number of serious crimes has also fallen and last Wednesday "there wasn't a single murder committed in this city of 10 million people, which is an extremely rare occurrence."

No matter how much some representatives of the mass media may shout about the aftereffect of Chechnya, it has not been felt in Moscow. There is every reason for believing that peace and order will reach Chechen soil quite soon.

Media Said To Incite Ural District Desertions

LD2612124994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1125 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yekaterinburg, Dec 26 (Interfax)—The command of the Ural Military District has accused the local press and activists from the Movement Against Violence of inciting conscripts and servicemen from the Yekaterinburg garrison to desert in connection with developments in Chechnya.

In its statement released on Monday the command said that the Vecherny Ekaterinburg newspaper and the Channel 4 TV company spread "information conducive to provoking unhealthy sentiments among conscripts, servicemen and their parents."

The parents of 17 servicemen "persuaded their sons to desert," the statement points out.

Official Supports Russian Troops in Abkhazia

LD2312115694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1142 GMT 23 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sochi December 23 TASS—Disagreement with the proposal of speaker of the Russian Federal Assembly Vladimir Shumeyko for the withdrawal of Russian peacekeeping forces from the Abkhazian territory when their mandate expires late in December was expressed by Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Affairs of the CIS. In a statement circulated here on Friday, Zatulin described the peacekeeping operation of Russian armed forces in Abkhazia as "the only successful example of such operations, a model on which intervention of Russian troops in ethnic conflicts should be patterned".

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"Unless the mandate for Russian peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia is extended, war may flare up there again, and the war will be fought on Russia's doorstep", said Anatoliy Prokopiev, representative of the press centre of the Russian Federal Frontier Guards service at a meeting with reporters in Sochi.

Regions Agree on Fuel Exchange, Anxiety Remains

LD2612085994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0844 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khabarovsk December 26 ITAR-TASS—The coal-miners of Neryungri, Yakutia, have lifted a month-long embargo on coal shipments to the Russian far-eastern Khabarovsk territory in exchange for assurances that natural gas supplies will resume to their, Russia's coldest region.

Neryungri is now shipping daily about 3,000 tonnes of coal to Khabarovsk's thermal power station No. 3 in the hope of receiving 1.5 billion rouble-worth of natural gas from the far eastern territory.

Local sources in Khabarovsk, however, are still in doubt as to whether the coal supplies will be steady and sufficient, particularly because payments are a headache. Khabarovsk is concerned with the provision of fuel to its largest coal-burning power-generating stations No. 1 and 3. Komsomolsk, another major city in the far eastern region, has a strained budget which makes payments for natural gas supplies from Sakhalin a problem.

According to experts of the Khabarovskenergo Association, the total cost of generating one kilowatt-hour of electricity in the local energy sector is 120 roubles, while the selling price is fixed at 52 roubles for the same.

The sector used to rely on the federal budget for resources to close this cost-consumer price gap. However, the state still owes the Amur regional energy sector 46 billion roubles for the third quarter of this year, and has refused to provide 120 billion roubles in subsidies for the fourth quarter.

To make the matters worse, the Khabarovsk territory's enterprises are unable to clear their arrears to the energy industry because of the general payment crisis.

Perm Oblast on Local Economic Abuse Findings

MK2412131894 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 24 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Igor Lobanov (ADS) under the "Inspection" rubric: "Moscow Commission Makes Claims Against Perm. Perm Authorities Partially Dismiss Them"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gennadiy Igumnov, acting governor of Perm Oblast, told Legislative Assembly deputies on 21 December about some of the findings made by a commission of the Auditing Department under the Russian president's staff which conducted an inspection in Perm Oblast between 8 and 18 October. Having told the deputies about the inspection's results, Mr. Igumnov nevertheless did not wish to make available to the lawmakers a copy of the full text of the findings.

The deputies showed special interest both in the great secrecy surrounding the commission's work and the conviction on the part of a number of Perm lawmakers that there is a direct link between the visit and the suspension of Perm Oblast's participation in the Treaty on Civil Accord. However, the commission's chairman, Anatoliy Dyatlenko, categorically denied this link as he met in Moscow with Legislative Assembly Chairman Yevgeniy Sapiro, according to the latter.

The Moscow commission uncovered the main abuses in the sphere of foreign economic activity and the operation of joint ventures. The president's inspectors, in particular, regarded as an abuse the fact that 183 joint ventures set up on the oblast's territory exported raw materials worth $28.4 million whereas they imported goods worth only $4.2 million. None of the 22 regional quotas awarded to the administration in 1993 were fully used; for this reason, the commission thinks, the oblast received $55 million less than it should have. The oblast administration, however, dismisses this accusation, referring to the fact that the changed economic situation made the use of the quotas was causing losses.

The commission also had complaints about a number of Perm enterprises. The "Permneft" Joint-Stock Company, for example, received, for unknown reasons, $50 million less than it should have for oil it exported. The oblast administration was also accused of the fact that 32 enterprises included in the oblast privatization program have still not been privatized (the treasury is out one billion rubles).

Besides, the administration is still one of the founders of three commercial structures with an investment of 500 million rubles, which is banned by law. However, Mr. Igumnov stated that he did not know what enterprises they were talking about. In the meantime, written materials from the inspection have been passed on to the Prosecutor's Office, to the Federal Counterintelligence Service, and, in part, to the tax inspectorate.

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International Affairs

U.S Provides $72 Million Grant

LD2412173294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 24 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Dec 24 (Interfax-Ukraine)—The USA gave Ukraine a grant worth 72 million dollars, the US Ambassador to Ukraine William Miller said in Kiev on Friday. According to him, the grant is part of the 100 million dollars Washington pledged to give Kiev during President Leonid Kuchma's visit.

As Ukraine's Economics Minister Roman Shpek said, the funds will be used in resolving the problem of balance-of- payments deficit, and spent on covering debts owed by the joint-stock company Gazprom.

Aid granted to Ukraine will make it possible not to increase Kiev's debt for fuel supplies and leave it on the level of October 1, when it amounted to 1.4 billion dollars, Shpek pointed out.

Ukraine, he said, is willing to take political decision to shut down the nuclear-power plant in Chernobyl, he said. To accomplish this task Ukraine needs funding worth some 1.4 billion dollars, Shpek noted.

Canadian Aid Supports Balance of Payments

LD2412142194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 24 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center reports that Canada has transferred to Ukraine $13.5 million to support Ukraine's balance of payments. The Novyny television and radio agency underlines in connection with this that it exemplifies Canada's large-scale and wide-ranging aid to reforming the Ukrainian economy. Almost 80 programs and projects, aimed to promote Ukraine's integration into the world economy and attract Canadian business to the Ukrainian market, have been drawn up within the framework of this assistance, half of which have already been implemented.

World Bank Approves $500 Million Loan

LD2312151194 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1145 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 23 Dec—The World Bank has approved a rehabilitation loan of $500 million for the stabilization and development of the Ukrainian economy.

According to Daniel Kaufman, chairman of the World Bank representation in Ukraine, the first credit tranche will amount to $250 million, and will be received in two portions of $100 million and $150 million. It will be used to pay for Ukraine's imports, and support the reforms that have been launched.

The second tranche will be received around April 1995 and will be used to fund programs aimed at structural reorganization, social protection and privatization.

Ukraine became a member of World Bank in September 1992. The $500 million rehabilitation loan is the largest received by Ukraine from the Bank so far.

The loan is for 17 years, including extensions to repayments in the first five years, at a standard variable interest rate, which is currently 7.1 percent.

The cash will be sold at the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange and paid into the Ukrainian budget.

IBRD Loan Offsets Turkmen Gas Debt

LD2412145494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 24 Dec 94

[By UNIAN correspondent Svitlana Dorosh]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kiev—On 24 December, the Supreme Council of Ukraine ratified an agreement between Ukraine and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD] on the provision of a $500 million rehabilitation loan to Ukraine. The agreement was ratified by a majority of 283 votes, with 38 deputies against the decision, and 10 abstentions. [passage omitted]

Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz said the World Bank would be notified about the ratification in a telegram and the first $110 million would follow shortly, with the money to immediately be transferred to Turkmenistan toward Ukraine's gas debt repayments. Turkmenistan's Mejlis, in session once a quarter, is, on 26 December, to decide whether to resume gas deliveries to Ukraine.

The ratification of the agreement was supported by chairmen of the Supreme Council finances and banking activity, and budgetary committees.

Despite opposition to the approval of the loan from representatives of the communists parliamentary group—describing it as "an act of economic enslavement,"— and UNA-UNSO [National Assembly-National Defense] Deputy Yaroslav Ilyasevych—arguing a "gift" of $603 million as interest on the sum borrowed would have to be made on top of the 500 million Ukraine has to repay under the agreement—deputies agreed that, given the need to pull out of the energy crisis and offset the budget deficit, Ukraine at present had no alternative.

Russia Uses Gas Debt To Exert Pressure

LD2512173194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 24 Dec 94

[By UNIAN correspondent Nataliya Nehmadzyan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—"Russia is using Ukraine's debt for gas as a method of exerting direct

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political pressure on our state, so as to obtain the Black Sea Fleet," Ukraine's Deputy Finance Minister Borys Sobolyev said in an interview with UNIAN on 24 December. He also pointed out that despite the fact that Ukraine passed to Russia a draft agreement on the prolongation of its debt for Russian fuels as far back as on 28 November, no relevant Russian draft has been available as yet.

According to Borys Sobolyev, every day of procrastination with the approval of such a document costs $455,000 to Ukraine. Ukraine needs $654 million to extend the term of paying off its debt for Russian gas. Meanwhile, the sum, which the International Monetary Fund has calculated and intends to provide, amounts to $121 million only.

In Borys Sobolyev's opinion, the sale of 10 to 15 percent of the shares of UkrHazProm [Ukrainian gas company] could ensure that our obligations to Russia would be fulfilled and there would be no need to give away main pipelines and underground gas holders to Russia.

Ministry on Luzhkov's 'Prefecture' Statement

LD2612142394 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1215 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 26 Dec—The press center of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued an official statement in connection with the remarks by Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov during his visit to Sevastopol. Luzhkov who visited Sevastopol on 23 December described it as "Moscow's 11th prefecture and Russia's number one outpost on its frontiers."

"Such statements are regarded as nothing but attempts to infringe on the territorial integrity of a friendly neighboring state," says the Foreign Ministry statement. "They run counter to the UN Security Council position expressed in its resolution of 20 July 1993, the memorandum on Ukraine's security guarantees of 5 December 1994, the Helsinki Final Act, and international law.

"Particular concern is caused by the fact that Mr. Luzhkov's statement was made to coincide with the finalization of difficult negotiations over the draft international treaty between Ukraine and Russia. It casts doubt on the expediency of such trips, be it to a noble purpose, by Russian politicians who resort to unfriendly statements that contradict not only international legal standards but also the common desire to restore Ukrainian-Russian relations to normal.

"The Ukrainian side is forced to draw appropriate conclusions in order to prevent future attempts to use its hospitality against its national interests."

Group Discusses Solutions for Chechnya

AU2712123194 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 23 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In a Peaceful Way Only...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] "When human blood is being shed, it is inappropriate to talk about territorial problems. It is impossible to delay resolving the situation in Chechnya," stated Borys Oliynyk, chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council Commission for Foreign Affairs and Ties With the CIS, at a session of the international round table "Human Rights in the Post-Communist World in the Context of the Chechen Crisis." The round table, organized by the "Ukrainian Perspective" fund, gathered parliamentarians and representatives of public organizations and committees of Chechnya, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, and Estonia. Due to the complex situation in Russia, the State Duma deputies group, headed by Yegor Gaydar and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, who had been invited to attend could not arrive in Kiev.

Sayt-Khasan Abumuslimov, deputy of the Chechen Republic Parliament, called the bloody events in his country "a continuation of the Chechen people's centuries-old tragedy." He categorically objected to the official position taken by leaders of a number of countries who regard the events in Chechnya as "Russia's internal affair."

In view of the fact that borders of continents and borders between religions are situated on the territory of Chechnya and that the conflict may expand extremely widely, the participants in the round table made an attempt to unite efforts of democratic movements of countries of the former USSR in order to search for additional ways to resolve the crisis in a peaceful way.

National Affairs

Kuchma Issues State Planning Decree

LD2312203394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1851 GMT 23 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 23 Dec—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma today issued a decree on state planning within the country's economic and social development for 1995. Given the new economic situation and the inefficacy of the existing practice of state planning with regard to the republic's economic and social development, he has instructed the Cabinet of Ministers to draw up programs on the basis of Ukraine's state budget for 1995. These are to define the basic macro-economic indices and balances, as well as a government action plan to ensure they are implemented.

In accordance with the document, ministries and government departments are to draw up indicative plans for the development of the relevant branches of the national economy, to be confirmed by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, keeping to within specific financial and material resources.

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Deputies Discuss Energy, World Bank Loan

MK2412143994 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 24 Dec 94 p 5

[Report from Kiev by Konstantin Parishkura: "The Left Does Not Trust International Capital. An Economic Collapse Did Not Persuade the Supreme Council To Accept $500 Million as a Gift From the World Bank"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the Ukrainian Supreme Council plenary session 23 December the deputies heard a report by Anatoliy Dyuba, deputy prime minister in charge of the fuel and energy sector. He spoke about the catastrophic state of the power supply system and heating problems facing cities and villages. In connection with the power and fuel crunch, he said, the government will introduce an austerity regime. Hot water all over Ukraine will be supplied for three hours in the morning and three hours in the evening (in many locations, particularly in Crimea, an even tighter rationing has been in existence for a long time already). Many energy-intensive enterprises will be shut down (something that has also been tried in Kharkov, Dnepropetrovsk, and other cities). At night electricity will be supplied only to emergency services and to keep up the minimal light on city streets. The prime minister also listed other provisions of the austerity program, explaining that if current should fall below a critical point in electric power grids, consequences may be unpredictable, including the automatic cutoff of consumers and the inability of nuclear power stations to operate under such conditions. The deputies seemed to be hardly capable of understanding the reporter. They could not even formulate a decision to take this information into consideration. Nor could they grasp the Ukrainian Government's efforts to resolve the crisis of nonpayments for Russian and Turkmen energy resources, seeing behind them only evil designs by Ukraine's neighbors and its own government.

When Supreme Council Deputy Chairman Oleg Demin, who chaired the session, proposed that the deputies ratify the agreement on a $500 million preferential loan, already granted by the World Bank, the left-wing majority refused to consider this matter at all, demanding an expert appraisal, explanations by the government, the Ukrainian National Bank, and the Finance Ministry. They remained unmoved even by Deputy Prime Minister Igor Mityukov's explanation on the loan's terms. Meanwhile, the terms are not just advantageous for Ukraine, they are life-saving in the current situation. The first $100 million could be received as early as the end of the year, and the rest would be released within the first six months of next year. The loan will be given for 17 years. Within the first five years, an 8-percent interest should be paid only on amounts actually received. The hard currency can also be used to finance the repayment of import debts. There is just one condition—economic restructuring aimed at creating a market economy. From the left-wing deputies' statements at the Ukrainian Supreme Council it was clear, however, that they do not trust international capital—the ratification of the agreement was postponed.

Masol on Energy, Loans, Reforms

LD2612020594 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 24 Dec 94

[Interview With Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Andriyovych Masol by unidentified Ukrainian correspondents; place, date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Unidentified correspondent] Esteemed Vitaliy Andriyovych, this is your last Saturday interview with correspondents representing television, radio, and URYADOVYY KURYER for this year. This is why we would like to hear your opinion of what has been done, and, most importantly, to learn about the government's plans and forecasts for next year. Will it bring the long-awaited economic stability and, consequently, the improvement of our people's life? What is your opinion?

[Masol] 1994 was very difficult. Many moves have been made since the beginning of the year that were not considered well enough and that later became a burden on industry and on the economy as a whole. I would like to say that this is, first and foremost, due to the fact that settlements for fuels have not been worked out properly, which then became a heavy burden on our state's economy.

I can say that the third quarter and the first months of the fourth quarter showed that the industry became to stabilize the situation as a whole. This process was very slow, but let us say this: if the production growth in August was four percent as compared to July, then in September there was a 10.4 percent growth as compared to August; in October there was a 10 percent growth as compared to September. I only made a mistake in relation to the month of November, as I believed that in November there would be a decline in production as compared to October, but there also was a growth of 1 percent in November.

On average the growth was much higher; however I expected that the decline would be more significant owing to the liberalization of prices, which was signed, as you know, in October.

The economic situation began to stabilize, as a whole, but, unfortunately, I must say openly that in December the situation became much more complicated because of the stoppage of some industries as a result of nonsupplies of gas from Turkmenistan, which we were supposed to receive during November and December.

I must say frankly that in this situation Russia gave us great help by supplying gas in excess of what had been envisaged by initial contracts. Initially, they supplied an additional 4.5 billion cubic meters of gas. Given that the issue has not yet been resolved with Turkmenistan, it

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supplied more gas so that we could be able to survive through 1 January 1995. This is the [word indistinct] issue, which had a very great impact on the work of industry as a whole.

A shortage of fuels is the main reason today for the tough situation in our state. It is necessary to pay for fuels, to settle [word indistinct] and this will be one of the main [word indistinct] reasons behind a possibility of stabilizing the situation in the economy in 1995.

However, there are positive factors as well, as I have already said. Industry has begun functioning during the past five months. A positive factor, I would like to emphasize this no matter what they say, is that our state is provided with grain. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the farmers and agricultural workers for the fact that, despite all the difficulties of our economic life, despite, let us say this openly, chaos in prices, they, nevertheless, sold grain to the state. Some people do not like the words to the state. I considered it to be the main task of the government to provide our population with grain, so that, despite the [word indistinct] they could have grain and bread.

I am very satisfied with the fact that this issue has been resolved, as a whole, and our population will have grain until the new harvest is gathered in.

There are many proposals today how to resolve these issues. We are discussing the issue, and there are various opinions on how to work in 1995. The year 1995 will also be difficult. It will be difficult. First, I have already said this; second, the circulating assets of our enterprises have significantly decreased and now we receive great quantities of raw materials from Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union.

Therefore, I believe in general that the rates of decline in production that were observed during 1994, especially during the first six months, will not occur in 1995. However, the situation will be very difficult, because issues of the balance of payments, first and foremost, and issues of settling accounts with enterprises have not been resolved. In general, let us say that our monetary system does not work as yet. The primary task is to make our monetary system work. This is why we are presently working out many various mechanisms. I believe that there will be a step-by-step, slow stabilization in 1995.

At first, there may be an insignificant decline. If we fail to find a solution to the gas issue the decline will be very significant. Much will depend on the work of agriculture and on the harvest of 1995.

[Unidentified correspondent] Vitaliy Andriyovych, I would like to draw your attention to the issue that is of great concern for people today. Although it is known that of late you have been paying a good deal of attention to issues of gas and oil supply to Ukraine-a few days ago you had meetings and telephone conversations with the government officials of Russia and Turkmenistan-have you managed to gain any results? What is the situation now with the supply of fuels to the national economy and to the population? What is awaiting us in the near future?

[Masol] I am not the only one to tackle the issue, the president and leaders of our departments are also doing this. This is a very complicated matter. Taking into account the fact that Ukraine failed to pay off its debt to Turkmenistan for the gas supplied in 1993 and did not pay off the debt in 1994-it only began to pay off beginning approximately the second quarter of 1994, and the size of payments was very small-Turkmenistan has actually cut off gas supply to Ukraine as of 11 November. We were supposed to receive 28 billion cubic meters of gas but received 12 billion cubic meters. I have already said this and I emphasize this again that at present we live at the expense of the gas supplied to us by Russia, the gas supplied additionally, because the contract signed with Russia envisaged the supply of 52 billion cubic meters of gas.

When will the situation with the supply of fuels to our state, with energy supply, as a whole, will improve? I can say that this will happen approximately after the New Year. We are currently working on this with Turkmenistan. The United States, to be more precise, the World Bank, gives us rehabilitation aid worth $500 million. But this aid will not be extended immediately. Not more than $100 million are to be advanced this year. This money will be used to pay part of our debt for the gas supplied to Ukraine by Turkmenistan. I believe that the Supreme Council must ratify this agreement now. Then, on Monday and Tuesday, a mechanism of paying off our debt to Turkmenistan for the gas supplied will be worked out and only then they will pledge, as they say, to begin supplying gas. However, it takes approximately four to five days for gas to reach Ukraine; therefore, you can calculate yourself when we will begin to receive the gas if we meet all the existing requirements and resume gas supply.

This is why, unfortunately, before the New Year we shall have to reduce the hours of television broadcasts-they will go on the air from 1900. I would like to draw the attention of all the leaders of enterprises and farms, all our population, to the fact that if we continue the practice of non-payments for the gas supplied, the gas supply will again be cut off. Therefore, the most important issue today, despite all the difficulties of the financial situation, is the need to ensure that payments for the fuels supplied to Ukraine be made without fail. Only then the conditions of work of the economy, as a whole, and the supply of energy, including heat, to the population will be improved.

[Unidentified correspondent] Vitaliy Andriyovych, the letters sent in response to your Saturday interviews often carry the following question: what kind of violations were revealed in the course of checking the fulfillment of

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the government's resolution on price formation in conditions of reforming the economy and what measures are being taken to prevent [word indistinct] of such violations?

[Masol] True, after the liberalization of prices, certain leaders of enterprises and departments took advantage of the so- called liberalization of prices and wrote off many expenses to the prime cost, which they were not supposed to write off-both the losses for the previous months and what was not related to the prime cost, and so on. This is why an extensive check of this activity and instances of writing off expenses to the prime cost was carried out. Quite a few violations were revealed. In general, I can say that the money recovered and the amount of penalties imposed amounted to approximately 200 billion karbovantsi. More than 400 leaders of various enterprises and departments, and so on, have been made answerable.

At present, our structures responsible for the level of prices- the antimonopoly committee and the tax inspectorate-are continuing to work toward preventing the abuses connected with the price rise.

Unfortunately, this mechanism has not yet been worked up, as a whole. I believe that in the near future a more or less acceptable solution will be found to establish proper order in price formation.

I would like to take the opportunity of being present at this meeting to extend New Year greetings to all our industrial and agricultural workers, to all our people, to wish them improvement of our life, good health, family happiness and all the best in the new year. [passage omitted]

Lvov Communists Support Kuchma's Reforms

LD2512194294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 24 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lvov—The KPU's [Lvov] Oblast committee has gone into opposition to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine, in particular on the issue of the Ukrainian president's reformist course. UNIAN learned this on 23 December from sources close to the KPU Lvov Oblast committee. The oblast committee adopted a letter appealing to the central committee and all oblast committees of the KPU on this matter, which notes, in particular, that it is necessary to give the president, parliament, and government a chance "to stop the collapse of society and lay down the foundations of civic prosperity. However, the communist party's decisions and actions have not been well thought out, and there is no clear programme of action," the Lvov communists believe.

The letter says that "the party's leading core cannot radically change the course of support for the president without the agreement of the majority of party members." The Lvov communists expressed themselves in favor of holding party conferences on these problems.

Crimean PEVK Voices Support for Kuchma

LD2512114894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2130 GMT 24 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 24 December—The Party of the Economic Revival of Crimea (PEVK) has opened its congress. Representatives of PEVK, which is led by Volodymyr Shevyov, an entrepreneur and the leader of the "Reform" group at the Supreme Council of Crimea, hold key posts in the Anatoliy Franchuk government.

The congress, which gathered 400 delegates, is being held in the recreation center of the board of internal affairs of Crimea. Guests have been invited to the congress.

In an interview for the press Volodymyr Shevyov said that his party fully supports the program of Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma. However, reforms will be set afoot only on condition that local bodies of power agree to this. This is why PEVK pays a great deal of attention to the forthcoming elections to the local bodies of power in Crimea. Mr Shevyov also emphasized that when the Russian or Ukrainian capital is advanced to Crimea, it will work according to our laws. He referred to Hungary as a positive example of reforming the economy.

The Party of the Democratic Revival of Crimea unites entrepreneurs and representatives of Crimea's administrative apparatus. Several days ago PEVK merged with another party, the Civic Forum of Crimea, which united intellectuals of social- democratic orientation. More than one year ago, when the Supreme Council of Crimea was headed by Mykola Bahrov, PEVK obtained consent of official Kiev to introduce an open economy regime in Crimea.

Poll Reveals Democracy 'Crisis of Confidence'

LD2512152394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 24 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—"The crisis of confidence in the authorities has been replaced by the crisis of confidence in democracy and democratic procedure," Iryna Bekeshkina, one of the leaders of the "Democratic Initiatives" center, said to journalists. In December the center conducted a concluding sociological poll among the residents of Kiev. In the opinion of Irina Bekeshkina, it is the crisis of confidence in democracy that can explain the unwillingness of the residents of the capital to go to polling stations. Forty-two percent of respondents today believe that "by- elections should not be held at all, because no one needs them."

According to the poll, 11 percent of the Kiev residents fully confide in Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma and 28 percent confide in him to a high degree. The level of confidence in the Supreme Council is 1 percent and 11 percent respectively. Most supporters of the president of Ukraine - 60 percent - are people of the national-democratic orientation. Meanwhile, 42 percent of Kievites of the socialist and communist orientation support the president either partially or fully.

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Forty-seven percent of those polled believe only market reforms can in the near future lead Ukraine out the crisis.

As regards respondents' age, there are two tendencies: The communist idea is supported mostly by the people aged 50 plus, the less socially active are young people aged 18-20. "I do not care," is their only answer to the majority of questions.

Security Service Denies Joint Moscow Operation

LD2312174194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine's Security Service press center has circulated a statement saying: Several newspapers have been publishing reports by the Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self-Defence [UNA-UNSO] about acts by Ukraine's law enforcement bodies against this formally unregistered organization. The reports are based on false information about an alleged joint operation by the Security Service of Ukraine and the Russian Counter-Intelligence Service against UNA-UNSO.

In the press, UNA-UNSO leaders interpret the arrests of some of their members on suspicion of criminal offenses as provocation on the part of law enforcement bodies. In fact, these UNA-UNSO members are being detained on purely criminal grounds without any political connotation. Furthermore, there was no joint operation against UNA- UNSO by the Security Service of Ukraine and the Russian Counter- Intelligence Service.

Kiev Asks Crimea To Reduce Energy Use

LD2312174294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol [no dateline as received]— Crimean Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk has received a telegram from Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Dyuba who heads a government commission for energy asking him to take urgent measures to reduce fuel consumption. Crimea's Deputy Prime Minister Arkadiy Demydenko told a morning sitting of the Crimean Supreme Council on 23 December.

The telegram from Kiev asks Franchuk to "take steps to cut the 24-hour supply of hot water to the population to two hours in the morning and three in the evening, limit local television broadcasting to 1900-2300, turn off night time lighting, except for emergencies, in the streets, stores, and advertising installations, as well as electric heating at kiosks and retail outlets, and suspend the work of energy-intensive enterprises for a week, except for those working around the clock and providing vital services to the population."

Deputies discussed reports by the managers of Krymenergo power engineering company, Krymteplokommunenergo municipal heating company, and Krymgaz gas company on measures taken to improve power, heating, and gas supplies to Crimean residents.

The parliament adopted a resolution instructing the Crimean Government to ask the Ukrainian cabinet to allocate additional consumption quotas for Crimea, 100 megawatts of electricity and 3 million cubic meters of gas. The government is also instructed to submit proposals to Kiev for allocation of 1 billion karbovantsi from Ukraine's state budget for reconstruction and development of heating systems at Krymenergo.

The Crimean Government is also instructed to submit to the Russian Government by 10 January 1995 a draft intergovernmental agreement on electricity and gas supplies to Crimea in 1995.

Donbass Incurs 'Economic Emergency'

LD2412090294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0815 GMT 24 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Donetsk December 24 TASS— An economic emergency situation has been imposed on Donbass, an industrial region of Ukraine. Senior managers of enterprises, power networks and executive committees of local soviets received a telegram, signed by Donbassenergo Director Vyacheslav Mitryukovskiy, a spokesman for the press centre of the Donetsk City Soviet told ITAR-TASS. It said: "Because of a low temperature and the absence of fuel at power plants, as well as for purposes of preventing a complete disintegration of the power supply system and the stopping of power plants, we request you, first, to forbid work in the evening hours (after 15.30, Kiev time) to educational establishments, design offices, management structures, physical fitness complexes and shops trading in manufactured goods. Second, we request you to stop for the period ending on January 12 metal-working enterprises, factories producing building materials and glass, as well as light industry enterprises, with the exception of life-support ones."

So, the energy crisis, of which both the local and republican authorities warned early in autumn, has come. Ukraine owes large sums of money to Russia and Turkmenistan for gas deliveries. A shortage of coal, although it is produced directly in Donbass, is worsening the situation.

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Officials Discover Transcarpathia Pipeline Leak

LD2612114794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1020 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—A leak in the Druzhba oil pipeline was discovered a few days ago within two kms of the village of Tisyanka in Transcarpathia, the press center of the Ministry for Environment and Nuclear Safety has reported. The spill polluted almost 0.2 ha of land. The leak was sealed on 25 December.

Measures are being taken to eliminate the aftermath and investigate the circumstances of the accident. Experts do not rule out criminal damage, the press center has said.

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Belarus

Chyhir Briefs on Antonchyk Report

WS2712111394 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1600 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On 26 December, Mikhail Chyhir, prime minister of the Republic of Belarus, held a press conference at which he attempted to refute the accusations directed against him, which were stated in the report of Syarhey Antonchyk. The head of the Belarusian Government, in particular, dwelt on the material concerning his activity when he headed the management board of Belahraprambank [Belarusian Agro-Industrial Bank]. According to Mikhail Chyhir, the allegations that the use of many purpose-oriented credits the bank gave did not answer the purpose, are unfounded, and Antonchyk will never manage to back his words by evidence. At the same time Mr. Chyhir acknowledged that when the bank gave credits for carrying out concrete programs, in particular, for the needs of the agrarian sector, a part of the credits was not strictly used in accordance with the purpose (financing the sowing and harvesting campaigns, etc.), it was used for the accomplishment of other tasks which, nevertheless, had a bearing to one or another degree on the problems of the agro-industrial sector. As for the fact that at one time Chyhir was made answerable for the violation of the law, and had to pay a fine worth 20 minimum monthly wages, the prime minister reminded the journalists how tough the National Bank's policy was as regards the commercial banks. In Belarus "there is no bank which did not suffer from the National Bank's sanctions," he declared.

The prime minister repudiated his participation in the deal which was alleged to have entailed eight murders. According to him, these allegations are none other than a "morbid imagination" of the MP [member of parliament]. "The 20th of December, when the report was voiced, is not my black day," Mikhail Chyhir said, "this is the black day of Syarhey Antonchyk and the Belarusian parliament." According to the premier, he has every reason to sue the deputy. But he does not seek to do so. "Public apologies will be enough for me, and I shall have no grudge against him. Nobody can prove what was said by Syarhey Antonchyk from the parliamentary rostrum in respect of me. I am sure of this," Mikhail Chyhir said.

The head of the Belarusian government voiced his anxiety about the fact that Antonchyk's report may arouse a negative attitude towards the Republic on the part of the world community and international financial organizations. According to Mr. Chyhir, recently the government established close contacts with many of them, and the falling off in relations with them will not allow to draw in sizable investments which are so necessary for supporting Belarus' economy. And the deterioration of relations, in the premier's opinion, is possible exclusively because of the report itself, not because of the ban on its printing. Besides, Mikhail Chyhir declared that he bore no relation to this ban.

Rejects Corruption Accusations

LD2612190394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1540 GMT 26 Dec 94

[By BELINFORM-TASS correspondent Viktor Sakhanov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk, 26 Dec—Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir today rejected accusations of corruption levelled against him. He told a news conference that he retains the right to hold parliamentary opposition deputy Syarhey Antonchyk accountable "for slander."

No one can be accused of unlawful actions without the relevant verification of the facts and a court verdict, the prime minister stressed. The deputy had alleged that the prime minister had in his former post as chairman of Belagroprombank [Belarus Agro-Industrial Bank] allowed financial and credit resources to be used for unauthorized purposes.

Mikhail Chyhir said he is most of all worried at the effect which an as yet unpublished article by Syarhey Antonchyk has had on business circles in the republic and beyond it. However, the prime minister hopes that the image of Belarus, which has firmly set out on the path of reforming the economy, will nevertheless not be damaged in the eyes of its foreign partners.

Answering questions from journalists, Mikhail Chyhir explained the appearance of Syarhey Antonchyk's article as due to the forthcoming parliamentary elections; the article "will, its authors calculate, enable the opposition to make political capital."

Administration Bans Corruption Report From Print

WS2312130894 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1700 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The presidential administration has imposed a ban on the appearance of the next numbers of the NARODNAYA HAZETA and ZVYAZDA newspapers. The Belarusian Dom Druku printing house has been ordered to deny print to the newspapers which will try to carry Antonchyk's report. This was announced by Yosif Syaredzich, editor-in-chief of NARODNAYA HAZETA, at the Supreme Soviet's session. He informed the parliamentarians that the decision to carry not only Antonchyk's anti-corruption report but also the whole verbatim report of the December 20 parliamentary sitting was made by the NARODNAYA HAZETA editorial staff at the request of a group of MP's [members of parliament] and democratic trade unions. According to Y. Syaredzich, he got in touch three times with Leanid Sinitsyn, head of the presidential administration, but their talks led to

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nothing. Mr. Sinitsyn, according to the editor-in-chief made it clear that "the calumny stated in Antonchyk's report will not carried by any Belarusian newspaper till a commission verifies the facts Antonchyk cited." Meanwhile, according to information received, the next issue of NARODNAYA HAZETA has been already sent for printing at the Belarusian Dom Druku printing house.

Parliament Debates Ban

WS2312142694 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The 16th session of the Supreme Soviet concluded its daily proceedings and workweek today.

Almost the entire miscellaneous section of today's agenda was devoted to the situation which has arisen around the recent parliamentary address by Deputy Syarhey Antonchyk. We will remind you that he devoted his report to alleged acts of corruption in the Presidential Administration, thus provoking a new political scandal. Papers which had today intended to publish Antonchyk's report instead appeared with blank areas where the material should have appeared, while NARODNAYA GAZETA and GAZETA ANDREYA KLIMOVA, which were already published, were not allowed to leave the Dom Druku publishing house at all. Criticism of such a situation was delivered in today's miscellaneous section by Halina Syamdzyanava, Aleh Trusaw, Zyanon Paznyak, Henadz Lavitski, and Yawhen Novikaw. They demanded that a special commission be created to address the prosecutor general with a request to instigate criminal proceedings in connection with violations of the Constitution.

Participants in the session adopted a resolution on the facts of the ban imposed on the papers, as well as the facts of violations of the law by the National Television and Radio Company.

The parliament also examined several personnel issues. Pavel Uladzimiravich Dzik was approved for the post of finance minister of the Republic of Belarus. Deputy Uladzimir Novik replaced Alyaksandr Kulichkow as head of the [Supreme Soviet] Commission for Industry and Public Services. Members of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Economic Court were also elected.

At its conclusion, the Supreme Soviet was addressed with a report by Housing Minister Barys Batura, who reported on a system of subsidies worked out by his ministry to facilitate payments for housing and public utilities. This was prompted by an upcoming increase in tariffs on utilities. A resolution was adopted on this issue.

Supreme Soviet Speaker Mechyslaw Hryb then wished the people's deputy a happy New Year; the legislators will reconvene on 9 January.

Lawmakers Demand Action Over Censorship

LD2312182394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, Dec 23 (Interfax)—Belarusian lawmakers Friday demanded that the Prosecutor General institute a court action in connection with "the revival of political censorship in the republic's media."

The demand was prompted by the case of a report, delivered by lawmaker Syarhey Antonchyk in parliament, on corruption in the top echelons of power, whose printed version was pulled from the local press.

Igor Osinsky, editor of the newspaper SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA, told Interfax the report was banned by Leonid Sinitsin, the presidential administration chief, when the story was about to be sent to the presses.

Mechyslaw Hryb, the parliament's chairman, proposed that the prosecutor general's office set up a special group to investigate incidents of censorship in the republic's media. In his opinion, if the story was in fact banned, the case should be forwarded to the Constitutional Court.

Publication Halted

LD2312210194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1700 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the three largest Belarusian newspapers: ZVYAZDA, RESPUBLIKA, and SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA, came out with large blank windows in the places where it was planned to publish the text of the report by deputy Syargey Antonchyk, which was delivered on 20 December at the session of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus. The RID agency found out that this had happened on the instruction of a representative of the presidential administration whose name is yet unknown. NARODNAYA GAZETA did not appear today at all. The editorial office [words indistinct] events at the session and also intended to publish the report of the (?rebellious) deputy. The material that was ready for print was totally removed from the issue on orders from above and the newspaper has kept only the title. The [word indistinct] newspaper of Andrey Klimaw, which has published Antonchyk's report as well as commentaries from journalists and [word indistinct] photographs, was [word indistinct] published on 22 December but on orders from above its circulation was banned and the issue is now kept in the Belarusian printing house effectively under arrest.

Igor Osinskiy, the editor in chief of SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA, held a news conference at the newspaper's editorial office on the issue of the arbitrariness of the powers in relation to the mass media.

We have just received the following information. The procurator's office of the Republic of Belarus has started an investigation into the fact of the failure of the republic's mass media to publish the report by Supreme

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Soviet deputy Antonchyk on corruption in the president's administration. At the current stage of investigation the procurator's office is talking to editors in chief of leading Belarusian newspapers.

The leadership of the joint democratic parties of Belarus held a news conference today at Government House on the violation of human rights in relation to the freedom of access to and distribution of information.

Lukashenka Dismisses Newspaper Editor

LD2612201394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 26 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Lukashenka has freed Igor Osinskiy from the duties of editor-in-chief of the leading national newspaper SOVETSKAYA BELARUSIYA.

Representatives of the president's staff told Interfax that the dismissal occurred after the presidential control service, following a series of checks, stated that Osinskiy was involved in corrupt financial dealings.

As we reported earlier, last Friday readers received an issue of this newspaper with a blank page, earlier reserved for the report on corruption in the president's administration, presented to parliament by leader of free trade unions Syarhey Antonchyk. IF note: The report dealt, among other things, with the involvement of the prime minister, his two deputies, several representatives of the president's administration and the defense minister in corrupt dealings. After the report was delivered, head of the president's administration, the manager of the president's office and the defense minister applied for resignation. Lukashenka asked them to continue to perform their duties.

Osinskiy said that the material had been removed from the issue by a leader of the printing house by order from Leonid Sinitsyn, the head of the president's administration.

Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir told journalists that he had nothing to do with the scandal. "The material will be published tomorrow, if not today," he said. (However, not a single national newspaper has published Antonchyk's report so far - Interfax).

In view of this, the deputies instructed the law enforcement bodies to carry out an investigation and the prosecutor-general to give a legal assessment of the incident. The deputies also urged the prosecutor-general to initiate the case of "the revival of political censorship in the media."

"Our attitude to these events must demonstrate what Belarus actually is - a law-based state, or a tribe whose main task is to guard the body of the chief," ex-chairman of the state security committee Gennadiy Lavitskiy told the parliament.

Editor of the NARODNAYA GAZETA, Iosif Seredich, said that he had had a telephone conversation with Sinitsyn, who warned him that the newspaper issues carrying the report on corruption would not come out. The telephone conversation ended in an ultimatum of the editor, who said that "either the newspaper would be published with the report, or it will not come out at all."

Parliament Speaker Mechyslaw Hryb proposed setting up a group for investigating the incident and, if any violations of the law are found, to pass the materials to the Constitutional Court.

Papers Appear With Blank Spaces

WS2712105294

[FBIS Editorial Report] As detailed in Minsk radio reports broadcast at 1300 and 1700 GMT on 23 December, the planned publication of a parliament address on alleged corruption in the Belarusian presidential administration was banned, reportedly at the instructions of an unnamed administration representative. Reports on the 20 December address by People's Deputy Syarhey Antonchyk, before the Belarusian Supreme Soviet in Minsk, in which he accused members of President Lukashenka's administration of corruption, were to have appeared in the major Minsk dailies.

The 22 December edition of Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian has blank spaces on pages 1-2, carrying only the title "Corruption: In the Second Circle?" and the following introduction:

"By publishing the speech [delivered] at the session by Deputy Syarhey Antonchyk, which became the reason behind announced resignations of three key figures from the presidential administration and the government, the SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA editorial board is, first and foremost, doing its professional duty before the readers, who have the right to know the truth about events taking place in the country. All the more so if those events concern the fate of the state and the prosperity of the people. Second, we comply with the law which gives deputies the right to state their views in the state-owned mass media. They noted this at yesterday's session, having requested that the press familiarize society with Syarhey Antonchyk's speech.

"The paper does not bear responsibility for the trustworthiness of the facts presented in parliament, nor has it the right to conduct any investigation. These issues are the competence of the highest legislative body of our country, which ordered appropriate authorities to thoroughly examine accusations leveled at members of the presidential administration. SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA will opportunely inform its readers about conclusions to be made. We are also ready to give

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the floor to all people and organizations, which were directly or indirectly mentioned in the deputy's speech.

"We are deeply convinced that, having prohibited a television relay of Syarhey Antonchyk's speech, and having expounded the opposed viewpoint instead, the authorities brougnt about a wave of rumors and most ridiculous proposals, and primarily served to damage the authority of Alyaksandr Lukashenka. Continued silence will only aggravate this gross mistake.

"If the facts presented in parliament conform to reality, let people involved in corruption be held accountable with the all the severity of the law. If Syarhey Antonchyk's speech, as was suggested, is nothing but a political show aimed at destabilizing the situation in the Republic and accelerating replacement of the legally elected authorities, let the Belarusian Popular Front opposition bear all responsibility—political, judicial, and moral."

The 23 December issue of SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA was also published with blank windows on pages 1-3, and carries the same title and introduction.

The 23 December issue of Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian on pages 1 and 3 carries blank windows under the title "Shorthand Report on Speech by Syarhey Antonchyk, People's Deputy of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, at the 20 December Parliamentary Session," with the following introduction:

"Publishing a shorthand report on the speech by Deputy S. Antonchyk and subsequent dispute over his speech at the Supreme Soviet session, the ZVYAZDA editorial board proceeds from the undisputable thesis that a paper is obliged to inform its readers about events taking place in the country. The paper does not bear responsibility for the accuracy of the facts voiced from the session rostrum. This is the prerogative of appropriate bodies, which were ordered to conduct a necessary investigation by 1 February 1995."

According to ref Minsk radio reports, RESPUBLIKA was published with blank windows on 23 December, and NARODNAYA GAZETA did not appear at all.

Soviet Schedules Parliament Elections for 14 May

LD2312194494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1648 GMT 23 Dec 94

[By BELINFORM-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk December 23 TASS—Regular elections of the Byelarussian [Belarusian] parliament are scheduled for May 14, 1995, under today's decision of the republican Supreme Soviet.

The current parliament was elected in 1990. Byelarussia is the only former Soviet republic which has not elected a new parliament since the communist era.

A year and a half ago the Byelarussian Popular Front collected signatures in support of a referendum to pass the vote of no-confidence in the current parliament. The parliament members then promised early elections but did not keep their promise.

The new Byelarussian parliament will have 260 members, ten members less than in the current one. The Constitution gives each parliament deputy the right to chose the basis of his work. Those who want to become professional law-makers will have to abandon commercial activities.

The parliament opposition insisted today on holding the elections on March 26. It is easier to gain the constitutional majority by summer if the first round fails to elect the two thirds of deputies. Still, the parliament majority scheduled the elections for May 14. Chairman of the Byelarussian Central Electoral Commission Aleksandr Abramovich admitted chances are slim to elect a new parliament before September.

President Demands Media Apology Over S-300 Arms Sale

WS2712121594 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 27 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has refuted reports by the Russian press and Ostankino television about Belarus' participation in the sale of an S-300 PMU-1 military system overseas. This system is not listed in our arms inventory, he assured a correspondent of RIA Novosti, in the presence of Belarusian Defense Minister Anatol Kastenka. The only one [S-300 system] we have is at the Military Engineering Academy and is used for training purposes. We can supply only three elements to it—one power station and two radars. The matter has been arranged with Russia, and I have an official document to that effect.

Regarding the alleged delivery of the system to the United States, according to Lukashenka, the system was actually impounded at one of Minsk's airports by the president himself. One has to look for clues in Russia, he emphasized, with regard to whom the system belongs, to whom it was sold, and at what price. Let Ostankino report this. As for me, I will not let the system go until the mass media and television issue an official apology, the Belarusian president stated.

Moldova

Parliament Grants Autonomous Status to Gagauzia

LD2312202494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The parliament of Moldavia [Moldova] today passed a law on a special legal status of Gagauzia. It was adopted at the second reading. RIA reports that, under the law, the republic's southern region will be granted the status of an autonomous territorial entity and its people will have the right to

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self-determination if Moldavia changes its own status. In accordance with the law, Gagauz, Moldovan, and Russian will be the official languages in Gagauzia.

Airs Controversy Over Gagauzia

LD2612202294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 26 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Moldova] Parliament Chairman Petru Lucinschi hopes that the legislation on the legal status of Gagauz Jeri (Gagauzia), passed by parliament in a 69-2 vote last week, will work. He described the legislation as a reasonable compromise.

He told Interfax that parliament would be criticized by the opposition, inadequate responses were possible, international organizations might disagree on it but it had to be adopted in order to settle the differences in society and stabilize the republic.

Under the legislation, a territorial autonomous unit will be set up as a form of self-government for the Gagauz people inside the Republic of Moldova.

As the debate was underway, 16 opposition deputies boycotted it who left the hall as the vote was taken. They protested what they described as "a first step towards making Moldova a federal state."

Populated areas where the Gagauz population accounts for over 50 percent of the total will enter Gagauzia by voting in a referendum. Referendums may also be held where the Gagauzi account for less than 50 percent of the population if at least one third of the population demand this.

Decisions to leave Gagauzia will also be taken in local referendums. The new territorial unit will be managed under the Moldovan Constitution and legislation.

Gagauzia's which is inconsistent with the Moldovan legislation will be voided. The chief executive of Gagauzia will be a bashkan, elected with a choice between at least two candidates for a term of four years in direct voting with universal suffrage by secret ballot, more than one. The bashkan, whose election will have to be approved by the Moldovan president, will be the country's vice-president.

Under the legislation, if the legal status of Moldova changes, the people of Gagauzia will have a right to self-determination.

The Gagauz, Moldovan and Russian will be the official languages of Gagauzia. It will have a right to use its own symbols as well as Moldovan state symbols. The people will decide in a referendum what town will become the capital of Gagauzia. IF Note: Gagauz are Orthodox Christian Turkic-speaking minority in the south of Moldova. There are 153,000 of them there. They make over 50 percent of population in 27 areas and a sizable minority in 15 others.

Gagauz officials believe that the adoption of this legislation is the optimal solution to their problem. Peter Buzaci, the vice-president of the self-proclaimed Gagauz Republic who headed the Gagauz delegation at the talks with the Moldovan leadership, told Interfax that the legislation made it possible to get down to settling the affairs of Gagauzia as an integral part of the Republic of Moldova and resolving all the problems the Gagauz faced in recent times.

He believes that local referendums on what areas will be included into Gagauzia will be held early in 1995. These will be followed by elections to the Gagauz parliament, possibly simultaneously with the local elections throughout Moldova next March or April.

Lawmakers Adopt 1995 Budget

AU2312212594 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1948 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 22/12/1994—The Moldovan Parliament adopted the 1995 state budget today.

Budget revenues are expected to be 1,150.8 million lei, and expenditures 1,450.8 million.

Apart from the state budget, power bodies in localities shall adopt local budgets. Their revenues, okayed by the parliament, are to be 779.6 million, which figure is supposed to be equal to expenditures.

On the whole, the revenues of the so-called consolidated budget are to make 1,790.4 million lei, while expenditures 2,090.4 million.

The budget deficit shall be financed at the expense of credits granted by the Moldovan National Bank (60 million lei), means obtained from selling government bonds (40 million), and external loans (200 million).

According to independent experts, the Moldovan fiscal system—in case laws on excise duties, bank taxes, and taxes on supply structures are adopted—is likely to cope with financing the budget expenditures.

The budget provides for a sum of money to be used for gradual, phased indexation of monetary deposits of population, similar to the one of 1 January 1992. The parliament has determined that beginning January 1995, the indexation shall cover the deposits.

Citizens aged 60 and older—by 100 lei each three months. [as received]

Land tax, which used to be purely symbolic in the past, shall be substantially increased. The tax per each hectare of land shall be 154.2 lei ($36.7). Simultaneously, the list of commodities subject to excise duties shall be sufficiently reduced.

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The budget does not envisage wage increase as such, but provides for 400 million lei to raise wages that are below the monthly average at present. Depending on the success in the budget implementation, wages and allowances may be raised for some categories of population.

Over half of the budget expenditures shall be spent in the social sphere. In the consolidated budget, the social figure will exceed 900 million lei.

Economic expenditures will exceed 80 million, for science 22 million, for power structures 183 million, for the financing of Moldovan embassies and representations abroad 17 million lei.

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Kazakhstan

Gas Supply Contract with Uzbekistan

LD2612172094 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0400 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A working visit by Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister Nigmetzhan Isingarin to Chimkent has ended with the signing of a contract on gas supplies with Tashkent.

The doors opened a little for the first time in two months, and people were able to fully enjoy blessings which they had already almost forgotten. Chimkent owed more than 1.5 billion tenge for gas. The gas supply contract is based on the payment in the form of barytes which is mined in Kentau and used by the oil and gas industry.

The happiness of Chimkent's population at the increased gas supply did not last long, because the pressure then dropped sharply again. This time the reason was an accident on the Gazli-Chimkent pipeline, which fortunately did not involve casualties. As the Alaugaz joint-stock corporation reports, the maintenance and production workers intend to eliminate the accident and its consequences within a short space of time.

Chechens Interviewed on Diaspora Activities

LD2312190294 Almaty KARAVAN-BLITZ in Russian 19 Dec p 6

[Interview with Maryat Dzhamalayev, chairman of the Chechen-Ingush society Vainakh, and Kazakhstani Supreme Council Deputy Salman Geroyev by unidentified reporter; place and date not given: "Chechnya: A Week of Blood"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This war is a week old. The situation in Chechnya is being viewed in different ways around the world. But most people agree on one thing: The politicians' mistakes are once again being washed away by the blood of innocent people.

There are 100,000 Chechens and Ingush living in Kazakhstan today. As we have already reported, a republican conference of the diaspora of both peoples adopted an appeal to President Yeltsin to end the bloodshed in the North Caucasus, and to President Nazarbayev to act as a mediator in the negotiations between Russia and Chechnya.

We interviewed the leaders of the diaspora. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What information have you received from Chechnya in recent days?

[Dzhamalayev] On 16th December we had a conversation with Chechen Vice President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, in person. He said that the Chechen government has always been in favor of disarming the illegal units in the republic which are led by Kantimirov, Labazanov, and Avtorkhanov, yet they were being fed arms and money by the center of Russia. As Yandarbiyev put it, in order to stop the bloodshed the Chechen leadership is prepared for negotiations on any conditions, but the republic's interests must not be encroached on here.

[Reporter] Does the Chechen and Ingush diaspora living in Kazakhstan support Dudayev or the opposition?

[Dzhamalayev] There is no opposition as such. There could be an opposition if there were people holding a common idea and fighting for it by democratic means. If Kantemirov, Labazanov and Avtorkhanov had a common idea they would unite. But each of the three wings exists on its own. And when there is a legal government, military groupings should be regarded as bandit formations. The word "opposition" started being applied to them only after the Kremlin and those who use to be in power in Groznyy began using it.

[Reporter] Some of the media has reported that volunteers willing to go to Chechnya are being registered in Kazakhstan.

[Dzhamalayev] No registration is being carried out. Those men who wanted to leave for Groznyy already did so on 11 and 12 December. For example, the press said that a certain Andarbek Yandarov has been made head of a committee set up in Kazakhstan to organize humanitarian aid for the population of Chechnya. Such a committee has indeed been set up by decision of the diaspora conference. [passage omitted] Except that it was Vakha Akhmatov who was elected committee chairman by the conference. I would remind those who call themselves leaders not to place their own personal interests above the public interest.

[Geroyev] At the beginning of Friday's plenary session I asked for the floor and, with a sense of pain and a desire to be understood, I addressed the Supreme Council deputies on behalf of the Chechen and Ingush people living in Kazakhstan. I said that the Chechen people have undergone more than one deportation. In 1944 they were expelled from their historical homeland and scattered about the former Soviet Union.

A new misfortune has now befallen the Chechen land. The problems that have arisen there could have been tackled by diplomatic means. But instead of a constitutional settlement, the government resorted to guns. If they do not like Dudayev that much, let them catch Dudayev alone, but do not let innocent people who have been driven to despair die, although I can see perfectly well that the war was declared not by Russia or the Russian people but by the reactionary part of the government which is itself at war with its own people.

Nazarbayev Addresses Defense Ministry Meeting

LD2312220094 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Kazakh 1600 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of the military board of the Ministry of Defense was held in Almaty on 21

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December, at which the results of developing the republic's armed forces in 1994 were discussed. The Kazakhstan Government is doing all it can to ensure the security of the state through both diplomatic activity and through the combat readiness of the Army and Navy. It has already defined new approaches to pursuing defense policy. By joining the START-1 Treaty and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the republic obtained security guarantees from countries that possess weapons of mass destruction. A memorandum on this was signed at the Budapest summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe on 5 December. It envisages real assistance for the republic within the United Nations framework in case of aggression against it.

After the progress made in developing the Armed Forces in the past year had been analyzed, recommendations were made improving combat readiness and strengthening discipline and organization among the troops.

Nursultan Nazarbayev, president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan, spoke at the Defense Ministry board session.

[Begin Nazarbayev recording] My work on developing an independent Kazakhstan and on ideological issues has already been expounded. In case you have forgotten, I want to say that the areas for strengthening Kazakhstan as a sovereign independent state consist of five parts at the present. If you like, this is our ideology for today.

First comes the independence of our state. I always say that independence is not an end in itself. It is independence for the sake of rebirth, for the sake of improving people's lives—the necessity of which our environment has created. I will say more about this. That was the first point.

Second is the modernization of the country, a social and market economy, and the construction of a constitutional democratic state. Modernization encompasses several points.

The third issue is interethnic accord in the multiethnic question.

The fourth is political stability, and fifth is integration with all our neighbors, especially within the CIS.

That is our ideology. What don't you like about it? In order to work and say what the aim of the State of Kazakhstan is at the present stage, I formulate it in this way and think that it covers everything.

As head of state and commander in chief, ensuring Kazakhstan's security and preserving its independence is my constitutional duty and obligation. That is why this question is being tackled in two ways. The first of these is diplomatic work, being good neighbors with all the countries around us and ruling out confrontation. The second, naturally, is strengthening the country's combat readiness for any eventuality.

Let us dwell on the first issue. The positive changes in the world, the decreased danger of war, the primacy of nonviolent means of ensuring international and domestic security, and the profound reconstruction of the state have demanded fundamentally new approaches to formulating military policy.

It has to be said that we chose what I view as the right path. Our foreign political actions in this sphere have persistently pursued a policy of gaining appropriate security guarantees from the nuclear powers in return for eliminating our nuclear weapons and acceding to the START-1 Treaty and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. We received them.

We are a state with a peaceful policy, and our military doctrine is exclusively defensive. That is why, as we were located at the junction of Europe and Asia in very dangerous surroundings, particularly to the south, we could not keep the world in such an agitated state by having nuclear arms on our territory. There was huge interest from various states, both small and large, which are interested in nuclear weapons and in becoming a target for some kind of blackmail. Kazakhstan is the only state in Central Asia that has entered into a relationship of strategic partnership with the leading powers of the world. I mean both Russia and United States, with which these agreements have been signed and ratified by the relevant parliaments.

The second issue, I said, was the modernization of the state. It can be discussed in different ways. Some people say that one should take the traditional path. What is the traditional path? It means that we have to look back to 100 years ago. If it is Russia, it probably means some kind of provincial government, landowners' estates, and all that. If it is in Kazakhstan, it means nomads and clans or tribes, but that is an anachronism. That is one path as people sometimes imagine it.

The second path, on which a good deal of effort and discussion is expended, is whether it is possible to go back to the past. They even talk about how well China is pursuing its modernization, and so on. Dear officers, as participants in all these events that have taken place in recent years, you can boldly state that all the misfortunes that we are experiencing arise out of the collapse of the unified state. I think I have spoken to you about this on more than one occasion. All the misfortunes that have befallen our people come from the collapse of the unified political and economic area, including the Armed Forces.

So what kind of going back can there be? It is impossible to go back to the socialist economic system, the planned command system, as we say. It is impossible to restore the Soviet Union in the same form. I told Gorbachev this in 1987 and 1988. By the way, yesterday I received a letter from him and his new book, called "What I Did To Preserve the USSR." I have a lot of questions about this book for him.

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The Communist Party was the framework for preserving the multiethnic state as it was, which united the multiethnic state. It reached from the Central Committee down to the collective farms, state farm, work teams, departments, and also the army. This framework united everyone. This discipline united everyone. However, it no longer exists.

To say we will somehow return to what was is simply to deceive ourselves. And to put it emotionally, even if we in Kazakhstan wanted to do so, others do not. Right? So what is there to talk about?

A third path thus remains for the modernization of the economy. The whole civilized world is going by this path, but not that way, not the tough and harsh capitalism that exists. We also know its defects. There are a lot of unemployed people, a lot of homeless people, a lot of drug addicts, and the most terrible number of crimes in Washington, the most in the world, they say, and also in New York. That is why, although we have chosen the general path that the world has taken—in other words an open economy and cooperation with every state in the world—we have nevertheless called it the social and market economy. We must try to preserve the people's social achievements.

What they call collapse in the West—the disintegration and breakdown—everything disintegrated. The single organism exploded and nothing was left.

Between you and me, to be honest, the government and maybe I, to some extent, should be thanked for the fact that we have preserved Kazakhstan at least the way it is over these six years. This is because 93 percent of its economy used to be managed from Moscow, via the Soviet ministries of the USSR; 30 percent of its budget was received as an allocation from the center; apart from that 30 percent, funds came to Kazakhstan directly from ministries and departments, including the Defense Ministry. These no longer exist.

To mention the Armed Forces' tasks for 1995 that we are talking about, the main task of the Armed Forces in 1995 is to maintain combat and mobilization readiness at a level that guarantees the defense of sovereignty, integrity and state interests of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The main task is to be fulfilled in full accordance with the existing legislation of the republic, the standards of international law, and treaty obligations in the military sphere.

The level of combat and mobilization readiness must not be allowed to fall in the formations and units, under the conditions of further reforms of the structure of the republic's Armed Forces. Attempts must be made to reduce the time taken to bring formations and units to a state of full combat readiness. Improvements must be made to the organization and methods of fulfilling measures to bring the troops and forces to the highest level of combat readiness. The main efforts in mobilization preparations are to be directed at complete and comprehensive familiarization with mobilization plans, and at perfecting measures to take the troops from a peacetime to a wartime footing in a practical manner.

The principle of teaching the troops what is necessary in war should be made the basis for combat training organization, taking into account the priority areas and prospects for development of the means and methods of armed combat. More attention is to be paid to moral and psychological preparation of personnel and to coordination of small units. The main task of commanders and staffs at all levels is to maintain the weapons and military equipment in permanent combat readiness, the use of weapons, and the safe storage of weapons, ammunition, property and other material resources.

Next year you must think once again that, in all the work we are doing, this is now the independent state of Kazakhstan. I put independence in first place because, as you see, we have been placed in these circumstances. We will continue this work of integration, rapprochement, friendship, and confidence. You will understand, however, that we must resolve all the issues here, and nobody will come and do it for us.

Those were the main thoughts I wanted to share with you, dear comrade officers. I wish you success in your service. On this occasion, I want to wish you Happy New Year—the year of the 50th year of the Great Victory. I think we must all make preparations. The next round of awards that I give will probably be timed to coincide with that time, on the minister's instructions. We do want to give support and encouragement. You too must use this date—which is a great one, not only for the military but also for civilians—to pull yourselves up. We will give all the instructions via the executive authorities.

Happy New Year! Convey my cordial feelings to your spouses, children, and nearest and dearest. I wish us all good fortune, a better future, a better life, and good progress in 1995. [end recording]

Nazarbayev, Others Discuss TV, Radio Company 'Problems'

LD2312135494 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0200 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] On instructions from President Nursultan Nazarbayev, a meeting was held yesterday at the presidential residence to examine the urgent problems facing the Kazakh Television and Radio Corporation. The meeting discussed financial, material and technical support for the corporation, and stressed the role of the radio and television in shaping people's attitudes. The leadership of the Television and Radio Corporation and a number of ministers and chiefs of departments were instructed to implement the rulings of the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Nurtay Abykayev, the head of the presidential apparatus, and Deputy Prime Minister Akhmetzhan Yesimov.

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Cabinet Discusses Main Problems of Non-Payments

LD2612203994 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of important issues were discussed today at a regular Cabinet of Ministers' meeting chaired by the head of government, [Prime Minister] Akezhan Kazhegeldin.

Nikolay Makiyevskiy, chairman of the State Commission for States of Emergency, reported on the need to take additional measures to reduce the damage that may be caused by possible earthquakes in Almaty and in the Almty and Taldykurgan regions, and to deal with the consequences of them.

Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Sobolev analyzed the main problems that give rise to non-payments in the republic. Members of the government acquainted themselves with a draft resolution on urgent measures to overcome the crisis caused by non-payments. In particular, with the aim of improving the payments system it is planned to introduce new payment methods and to increase the accountability of heads of banks and enterprises for keeping to the time set for transfering funds.

The Cabinet of Ministers again turned to the state of affairs surrounding the attraction and use of foreign investments and credits, and continued its discussion of the procedures for issuing government guarantees. The Ministry of Economy was requested to work out final decisions on these problems, in conjunction with other government departments.

Decision Adopted on Credit for Farm Producers

LD2712093294 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] With a view to stabilizing the economy in the agricutural sector the Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a resolution on a mechanism for providing credit to agricultural producers.

To provide the republic's population with foodstuffs and industry with raw materials, the Ministries of Agriculture, Finance and Economy, in coordination with the National Bank, are requested to define by 1 December each year the needs of procurement, processing, and trading organizations and enterprises for necessary credit funds, based on applications from the relevant ministries, departments and regional administrations.

The payment of interest on these credits shall form part of the expenditure of procurement, processing and trading organizations and enterprises.

Kyrgyzstan

Uzbekistan Gas Pipeline 'Destroyed by Explosion'

LD2312153 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1[illegible] GMT 23 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bishkek, 23 Dec—The pipeline delivering gas from Uzbekistan to Kyrgysztan and Kazakhstan was today destroyed by explosion. Supply of fuel to both republics is cut. According to specialists, what remains in the pipes will only last for a day or two.

Because of the emergency situation, Kyrgysztan is forced to cut down consumption of Uzbek gas by 30 percent. Work at the Kantsk cement and corrugated roofing combine has been brought to a halt.

Pipeline Repaired; Supply Resumed

LD2612110994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1043 GMT 26 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek December 26 TASS—Gas supply from Uzbekistan to Kyrgyzstan has been resumed. The fuel shipment was stopped as a result of an accident on a pipeline linking Uzbekistan to its consumers in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan which occurred about 100 km. from the city of Gazli on December 23.

ITAR-TASS was told by the Kirghiz Government staff today that Uzbek specialists have repaired the pipeline, and the full volume of the blue fuel supply was restored on Sunday afternoon.

President Decrees Phased Increase in Pensions

LD2412141894 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 0600 GMT 24 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to increase pension provision for citizens who retired prior to 1 January 1994, Askar Akayev, the president of the Kyrgyz issued an edict on 23 December on increasing labor pensions set prior to 1 January 1994, in which he ordered labor pensions fixed before this date to be increased in stages.

Thus, pensions are to be increased by 60 percent of their original amount from 1 January 1995 and by 100 percent from 1 July 1995, taking into account the increase in minimum wages in 1995. Under this decree, from 1 January 1995 the minimum size of labor and servicemens' pensions will be fixed at 128 rubles a month. The rates of obligatory insurance contributions, which citizens pay into the social fund of the republic's government and the pension fund will be increased from one percent to two percent of their wages.

In order to implement this edict, the government of the republic is to provide additional payments from the republican budget to the government's social fund for 1995.

Akayev Signs Employement Insurance Decree

LD2612205094 Bishkek Kyrgy Radio First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Askar Akayev has signed a decree with a view to strengthening the financial

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footing of the Employment Promotion Fund in order to ensure efficient implementation of state policy on employment, as well as in light of the proposal made by the republic's government on this. In accordance with this decree, a mandatory insurance contribution from working citizens amounting to 0.5 percent of wages is to be paid into this fund from 1 January 1995.

By 1 January 1995, the republic's government is recommended to prepare a draft law on amendments and additions to the law on employment of the Kyrgyz Republic, which will subsequently be submitted for consideration by the Supreme Council.

Decree on Assistance for Low-Income Families

LD2612194094 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 26 Dec 94

["Decree by the president of the Kyrgyz Republic on measures to improve the social assistance system for low-income families and citizens"—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with the presidential decree of 6 September 1994 on a single monthly benefit for poor families and citizens, I decree:

1. The regulations on a monthly benefit for poor families and citizens are approved, in line with Supplement 1.

2. The payment of state benefits to families with children is to be suspended from 1 January 1995 in accordance with the attached list—Supplement 2 [as heard].

Paragraph 3 of the resolution passed by the Supreme Council of the Kyrgyz Republic of 13 April 1994 on the procedure for introducing the law on pensions for citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic, which determines the procedures for allocating and paying social pensions, is to be annulled.

3. Paragraph 2 of the decree by the president of the Kyrgyz Republic of 6 September 1994 on measures to render social assistance to poor families is to be considered null and void from 1 January.

4. The government of the Kyrgyz Republic is to ensure back-payment of arrears which have arisen in 1994 in benefits for families with children and compensatory payments for bread and bakery items.

The government is to submit proposals to the Supreme Council on amendments and additions to legislative acts of the Kyrgyz Republic arising out of this decree. The government is to bring its own decisions into line with this decree.

Tajikistan

Edict on Interior, Defense, Security Ministries

LD2312210294 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1000 GMT 23 Dec 94

[Edict by President Emomali Rakhmanov "On Urgent Measures To Further Improve the Activities of the Internal Affairs and Security Organizations and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Tajikistan"; date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the aim of further improving the activities of the central apparatus of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Ministry of Security of the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as creating more effective systems for territorial organizations and subdivisions to run them, the president of the Republic of Tajikistan decrees:

The proposals made by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan on reorganizing the ministry's main administration and the creation of three administrations based on it to fight organized crime, economic crime, and the illegal drugs trade, within the staffing limits set by the main administration, are to be approved.

The expenditure involved in setting up, equipping, and maintaining the newly organized administrations are to come out of the spending plans, which provide for the maintenance of the main administration that is being reorganized.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Ministry of Security of the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan are to submit proposals on further improving the structure and creating an effective management system to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan no later than 1 February 1995.

With the aim of improving the morale and psychological state and reinforcing the professional core, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Ministry of Security of the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan are to conduct a full appraisal of staff in the central apparatus, territorial bodies, and low-level units by 1 March 1995.

It is a requirement that representatives of the presidential apparatus of the Republic of Tajikistan, and, at the local level, presidential representatives and chairmen of the regions, towns, and districts take part in the work of the central appraisal commissions of these ministries.

The government of the Republic of Tajikistan is to bring its own decisions into line with this decree.

[signed] Emomali Rakhmanov, president of the Republic of Tajikistan

President Cited on Creation of 'Tajik Ruble'

LD2312143694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1207 GMT 23 Dec 94

[By KHOVAR News Agency correspondent Nigmat Ochilov—TASS]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe December 23 TASS—In a message to the people of Tajikistan, President Emomali Rakhmanov has stated that the introduction of a national currency is inevitable. The text of the president's message, which was circulated by KHOVAR on Friday [23 December], points out that a decision to this effect is prompted by the "complex economic situation in Russia and Tajikistan, an analysis of an actual state of affairs in the provision of the population with cash, and the need to stimulate production and services."

Despite the fact that the government of Tajikistan has taken and will continue to take all necessary measures to unite the monetary systems of Tajikistan and Russia, this is essential for the transitional period, the message said.

This decision has been taken in coordinattion with the Russian Government and accords with the documents signed with Russia on the unification of the monetary systems of the two countries and with recommendations of international financial and credit organisations.

The drawing up of normative documents to introduce a national currency - the Tajik rouble - has been launched in Tajikistan.

Rakhmanov: Republic Entering New Stage of Development

LD2512154594 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A meeting of the chairmen of the republic's oblasts, towns, and rayons was held in Dushanbe yesterday. [passage omitted]

Abdulmajid Dostiyev, first deputy chairman of the Tajik Supreme Council, declared the meeting open and made a brief speech.

Later, the floor was given to President Emomali Rakhmanov. Analyzing Tajikistan's sociopolitical situation, the president pointed out that the republic is entering a new stage of development. The aim of this stage is to improve the well-being of the people of Tajikistan.

The adoption of a new constitution, and the formation of a central and local administrative and executive government in the republic, will ensure an effective political foundation to implement envisaged plans. [passage omitted]

In his speech, the president paid much attention to the state of money circulation in the republic. The conditions in which our country's people are now living cannot be described as normal, he said. That is why I addressed the people of Tajikistan. An analysis of the real state of affairs regarding the provision of cash to the population and the need to stimulate production and service is making us introduce our own currency. This issue has been agreed with the Russian Government and corresponds with agreements concluded with Russia on unifying the monetary systems of both countries. It also accords with the recommendations of international finance and credit organizations.

A national currency is one of the features of any country's independence. The state has to protect the benefits of the people of Tajikistan in this difficult and responsible period of our country's development. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Dzhamshed Karimov also attended the meeting.

Democratic Party Chairman Recognizes Election Results

LD2612122494 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1100 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Shodmon Jusuf, chairman of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan, says that he recognizes the results of the presidential elections in the republic that took place in early November. He pointed out that war cannot resolve problems of Tajikistan.

In the course of his interview with a correspondent of the IRAN NEWS newspaper published on Sunday, he stressed that all parts of Tajikistan have to try their best to prevent Tajikistan's transformation into the Rwanda of Central Asia.

Jusuf pointed out that the Democratic Party is ready to take part in the fourth round of the inter-Tajik talks that will take place in January in Moscow. Speaking about resolving the Tajik conflict by political means, he said that democracy and freedom for all Tajiks means the repatriation of all refugees and the disarming of armed groups of the parties involved in the conflict, including the groups of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan.

Jusuf expressed personal regards to Abdullo Nuri, the head of the opposition, and pointed out that there are people among the Islamists who are trying to transform Tajikistan into a second Afghanistan.

The Democratic Party of Tajikistan, which is led by Jusuf, said this autumn that they will stop armed struggle against the government and will leave the Coalition of Islamic Parties. Jusuf is currently living in Tehran.

Decrees on Sale of Aluminum, Raw Cotton

LD2612202494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 26 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] To build up the country's currency potential and fully meet the vital needs of the population President Emomali Rakhmanov has issued decrees to put in order the sale of aluminum and raw

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cotton. Both decrees will stay in effect throughout the period of "emergency measures to end the economic crisis".

The presidential decree declares the Tajik aluminum factory (the world's third biggest in output - IF) the sole representative of the Tajik government with the right to sell aluminum inside the country and abroad. The government has been asked to issue to the factory a general licence to export aluminum. All proceeds from the sale of metals will go to the currency fund and will be spent exclusively at instructions from the Cabinet of Ministers. The aluminum factory is free from customs and excise duties, as well as the VAT. IF note: The design output of the Tajik aluminum plant is 500 thousand tonnes a year. However, it has been down over the past three years due to objective reasons.

In another decree on the "fuller use of the cotton potential" the chief department of cotton ginning at the Tajik government's office is given the exclusive right to purchase, process, and sell cotton in the domestic and foreign markets. Under that resolution ten percent of cotton produced on state orders and "everything produced in excess of it" will be sold only to enterprises of the chief department and paid for in hard currencies or Russian rubles at world market prices.

Hard currency revenue from cotton fibre sales will go into Tajikistan's currency fund and be spent on urgent needs and to purchase foodstuffs. Eighty percent of hard currency revenue will be used to support the material and technological base of cotton ginning factories in adequate condition, introduce new technologies and compensate for cotton transportation costs.

President Rakhmanov instructed the Finance Ministry and National Bank to annually provide the chief department of cotton ginning with the required funds to finance advance payments to cotton sowing and cotton processing enterprises. The state budget will reserve special ruble funds to cover the hard currency revenue from cotton sales.

The government was instructed to issue to the chief department of cotton ginning a general licence to export cotton under an authorized quota.

The decree makes the interior and security ministers responsible for ensuring the "non-interference of other structures" in the work of cotton ginning associations, factories and wholesale enterprises. The security ministry was instructed to form special units to guard cotton ginning enterprises.

Military Sources on Border Situation, Tensions

LD2412174794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1702 GMT 24 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe December 24 TASS—The armed Tajik opposition based in Afghanistan is increasing its military presence in the Afghan-Tajik border zone, especially in the Pamirs and Moscow sections.

Military sources in Dushanbe told ITAR-TASS that no armed incidents have been registered on the border within the past few days. However, they do not exclude more armed provocations on the part of the Islamic opposition supporters.

Ammunition and heavy armaments, including air defence guns, are being delivered to Afghan border settlements and a unit of Tajik Mojahedin has arrived there. The arrangements aim at new armed actions against Russian border guards and the local authorities which support the policy of official Dushanbe. Similar actions are being prepared against the Russian border guards in the Shuroabad direction, primarily the 12th post of the Moscow border unit.

About 500 armed supporters of the opposition are concentrated in the Afghan border areas.

Secret Arsenal Destroyed in Darvaz Region

LD2412172994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1624 GMT 24 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe December 24 TASS—A large arsenal of arms and ammunition of an opposition Pamirs group was found and destroyed on Friday night in the Tajik Darvaz region neighbouring Afghanistan by a special police unit and Russian border guards, military sources in Dushanbe told ITAR-TASS today.

The arsenal included over 50 anti-tank mines, 30 shells for recoilless guns and other ammunition. The police detained the arsenal guard.

Three secret arms storages have been found in the zone of the Kalaikhum border unit, Gorno-Badakhsan, since early December.

Turkmenistan

Gas for Arms Deal Signed With Russia

LD2712115294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1126 GMT 27 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ashgabat, Dec 27 (INTERFAX)—Talks between leaders of Turkmenistan's defense complex and first deputy head of the Rosvooruzheniye company, Sergey Oslikovsky, took place in Ashgabat on December 27.

The two sides signed a protocol on schedule of payments for deliveries of material-technical resources by Rosvooruzheniye for 1995-96, as well as a protocol on a mechanism for implementing the general agreement on

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joint activities for the material and technical supply of Turkmenistan's defense complex, which was signed in July, 1994.

Turkmenistan's Deputy Prime Minister Boris Shikhmuradov told journalists that in 1995-96 the Russian side will receive six billion cu meters of gas annually. The gas will be sold via the Russian joint-stock company Gazprom on the Russian market for world prices (approximately $65 for 1,000 cu meters of gas) to those industries which will fulfil orders for Turkmenistan. The money gained will accumulate at Rosvooruzheniye accounts.

According to Oslikovsky, 30 percent of the money obtained from selling the gas will subsequently transferred to hard currency accounts in Turkmenistan. With the remaining funds Rosvooruzheniye will make deliveries to meet the needs of the country's defense complex.

Oslikovsky also said that Rosvooruzheniye will soon sell off some of the armaments remaining on the territory of Turkmenistan after the Turkestan Military District was disbanded.

Shikhmuradov said that expert ability of Rosvooruzheniye to sell the extra or outdated armaments "will save Turkmenistan".

President Receives Russian Intelligence Chief

LD2412124994 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 0520 GMT 24 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat], 23 Dec (TURKMEN PRESS)—Cooperation between Turkmenistan and Russia in ensuring state security was discussed at a meeting between Turkmen President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy and Yevgeniy Primakov, the director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS], which took place on 23 December 1994. The drugs trade and organized and international crime are to form the main areas that the two countries' secret services will join to combat.

Primakov handed a letter from the Russian president to Saparmurad Turkmenbashy. In it, Boris Yeltsin expressed his confidence in the successful development of mutually beneficial cooperation with Turkmenistan, a reliable partner of Russia in the CIS political and economic area.

Turkmenbashy stressed at the meeting that strengthening Turkmen-Russian ties is one of the top priority areas of sovereign Turkmenistan's foreign policy. These ties are based on the mutual respect of the two sides, which recognize partnership on an equal basis in all spheres of international cooperation.

Agreement Signed With FIS

LD2312201594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ashgabat, Dec 23 (Interfax)—An agreement was signed in Ashgabat December 23 on cooperation between the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS] and Turkmenistan's National Security Committee.

The agreement, to span five years, calls for cooperation in state security and protection of political, economic and technological interests of the two states.

Yevgeniy Primakov, head of the FIS, told Interfax that the cooperation, in particular exchange of information, between the two services would contribute to stabilization in the trouble spots.

Turkmenistan is now the 10th CIS member state with which Russia has signed such an agreement.

Niyazov, Ukrainian Delegation Discuss Gas Situation

LD2412102894 Ashgabat Radio Ashgabat Network in Russian 0200 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Turkmen President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy met with an official delegation from Donetsk Oblast of Ukraine headed by Shcherban, chairman of the oblast soviet of Donetsk Oblast. Taking part in the meeting were the members of the delegation, director general of [name indistinct] National Corporation and presidents Monarch [word indistinct] and (?Andon) companies of America.

The Ukrainian guests briefed the head of state on difficulties connected with stoppages in the supply of Turkmen gas to Ukraine and the grave economic situation in the oblast. Plants in Donetsk Oblast make up one-fifth of the industrial potential of the country. Nearly all of them operate by Turkmen gas, and due to this lack of gas, production of coal has decreased twofold recently. Many (?installations) that provide heat to the housing units of towns have stopped, which has forced the oblast governors' offices to make direct contact with the suppliers of Turkmen gas. Donetsk Oblast is prepared to pay a part of Ukraine's debt to Turkmenistan due to Turkmen gas, Shcherban said at the meeting. He added that American companies will help them pay the debt and that there are many sorts of consumer goods that could be soid in Turkmen markets.

By pointing out the favorable aspects of proposals by the guests, it is said that these proposals could be examined only after Ukraine pays its debt for the gas supplied in 1994. The Turkmen president said that Ukraine had to pay $300 million by 10 December, which was one of the conditions of the inter-governmental agreement signed during Kuchma's official visit to Turkmenistan. [words indistinct] Niyazov stressed that at present, Turkmenistan has its own difficulties and only after the payment of the debt will the supply of Turkmen gas continue.

Shcherban assured the president of Turkmenistan that he would definitely inform Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma of the results of the talks in Ashgabat.

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At the end of the meeting Saparmurad Niyazov said that there were [word indistinct] periods in the history of relations between Turkmenistan and Ukraine and understanding and fruitful talks had always helped. He expressed his belief that this time too it would be the same.

Myradov Elected Parliament Chairman

LD2612130694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1204 GMT 26 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Kurbanova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashgabat, 26 Dec—The first session of the mejlis (parliament) of Turkmenistan of the first convocation was held in Ashgabat today. The 50 deputies of the mejlis, which in accordance with the country's constitution is henceforth the permanent legislative body, received their mandates at the session. Sakhat Myradov was elected chairman of the mejlis by secret ballot.

Uzbekistan

Belarus President, Karimov on Results of Talks

LD2312142294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1155 GMT 23 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vilor Niyazmatov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tashkent December 23 TASS—President Alyaksandr Lukashenka of the Republic of Belarus wound up his official visit to Uzbekistan on Friday [23 December]. Eighteen inter-state, intergovernmental and inter-agency documents were signed as a result of the visit. These will help strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation and broaden trade, economic, scientific and cultural contacts between Uzbekistan and Belarus.

President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, commenting on the results of his talks with Lukashenka, pointed out that the documents signed in Tashkent will not only enable Uzbek and Byelorussian [Belarusian] enterprises to operate in full capacity but will also provide an opportunity to resolve important social problems in the two republics.

The Belarus leader repeated on many occasions during the visit that in the reform process his country would follow the path taken by Uzbekistan. When asked what attracted Belarus to that path, Lukashenka emphasised that a "shock therapy" is unacceptable in the period of transition to a market economy.

It is essential to move on to a market economy consistently, stage by stage, with an eye to providing social protection for the low-incomed sections of the population, Lukashenka believes.

Gas Supplies Resumed to Kazakhstan

LD2412173894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 24 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tashkent, Dec 24 (Interfax)—Gas supplies from Uzbekistan to Kazakhstan have been resumed, the Kazakh Ambassador to Uzbekistan Najameddin Iskaliyev told Interfax on Saturday [24 December]. According to him, gas supplies were stopped as a result of an explosion on the gas pipeline in Gazli (in the center of Uzbekistan) which occurred on Friday.

Currently gas reaches Kazakhstan via the Tashkent compressor station, the ambassador said.

In the meantime Uzbekistan's security service is considering several versions of the accident on the pipeline. According to the information available to Interfax, under one of them the blast was engineered on the eve of parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan scheduled for Sunday by Muslim extremists, who resent the fact that Uzbekistan's legislation denies the clergy the right to be elected to the parliament.

Local, Parliamentary Elections Scheduled 25 Dec

LD2512054394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0537 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 25—Elections to a new parliament and local representative power bodies are held in Uzbekistan on Sunday [25 December]. The 250 seats in a unicameral parliament are being contested by more than 600 candidates.

The People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan and the Progress of the Fatherland Socio-Political Association have also nominated their candidates.

Opposition parties—the Erg, Adolet, and Birlik—decided to boycott the elections.

The polling process is expected to be monitored by more than 50 experts from foreign countries and authoritative international organisations.

Turnout Ensures Valid Elections

LD2512131594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1244 GMT 25 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vilor Niyazmatov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tashkent December 25 TASS—The elections to the Supreme Assembly (Oly Majlis) of Uzbekistan are valid: According to preliminary data, more than 70 per cent of people entered in electorate registers cast their votes in the republic as of 14.00 [0900 GMT]. In Andizhan, Namangan, Ferghana and Khorezm regions, more than 80 per cent of people went to the polls, Kudrat Akhmedov, chairman of Uzbekistan's Central Electoral Commission, told ITAR-TASS.

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The polling process is being for the first time monitored by representatives from 40 countries as well as the United Nations Organisation.

President Interviewed on Election Day

LD2512153994 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 1000 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The elections are being carried out in an active manner. We are receiving reports from our regional correspondents. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Like a lot of other people, our country's president, Islam Karimov, visited the Yakkasaray polling station No. 629 to carry out his rights as a citizen. Carrying out the elections in a manner that is both historic and substantive depends on all of us, the president said. On this occasion, we asked our head of state to express his views on the importance of these elections, on the place of our state as it develops further, and generally on the republic's position.

[Begin Karimov recording] The elections which are being held today are of great importance for the future of people, society, the state, and its destiny and future, because I think that on the candidates who will be elected today will largely depend the future of our society and state—in many respects the future and the serious tasks now facing us, above all the swiftest possible escape from this economic crisis, the swiftest possible provision of prosperity for our society and country, the strengthening of the republic's independence, the swiftest possible introduction of legislation for the market economy, and the introduction of trends towards democratic freedoms in our society; to put it simply, the fulfillment of the great and sacred dreams of our people and nation, and the solution of all tasks and problems. And it also depends on the candidates' energy, their patriotism, their devotion, and to a great extent their ability to keep their promises.

That is why I believe that our people and nation will fulfill their constitutional rights and give their votes to people's deputies who meet these purposes and demands.

There is also another side to today's historical event. I know that for the first time in our country and society, open elections which correspond to democratic norms and employ methods that are new to us are being held. The very fact that the elections have been held will, I think, will be of great service in raising the political standards and awareness of our people; and on a world scale, raising the authority enjoyed by our Uzbekistan. [end recording]

Karimov Addresses Media on Elections

LD2612093694 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1400 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Polling station No. 629 in Yakkasaray constituency No. 59 in Tashkent was especially crowded today. The candidates standing for election to the Supreme Assembly here were Anorkul Nazarov, Latif Gulomov, and Shukhrat Akromov; there were also candidates standing for election to the city council.

Like all voters, President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan carried out his civic duty and voted for those who will defend the interests of the people and actively assist in developing the legislative activity of the young sovereign state.

The Uzbek leader also gave an interview to the media:

[Begin Karimov recording] We are electing our supreme body and local bodies of authority today. And in this respect, those who are elected today will play a decisive role, above all in implementing those programs, the ways of moving to a market economy and building a democratic society which we have chosen. The implementation of all these policy directions, which have already taken shape in the last three years of our independence, will largely depend on those who are to be elected today, both to the supreme body of authority and to the local authorities.

But the most important thing is that during the process of preparing for the elections you obviously noticed that our people have been very enthusiastic about the new methods or, shall we say, democratic methods of the elections. I have not met anyone, or even heard of anyone, condemning or failing to appreciate these methods. Therefore, what is happening today is of immense and fundamental importance to us, above all because as a state or society that is making the transition to a democratic way of governing the country and a democratic way of building a new society, we are gaining prestige, and I would say recognition in the eyes of the international community.

But the most important thing is that what people are awaiting from the new membership of the Supreme Assembly is above all implementation of the paths which have been chosen, but still need to be implemented, namely the paths for getting out of the critical situation and the economic difficulties which our society, our state and our people are experiencing.

And I would say that in terms of linking the two concepts—above all economic and democratic concepts, I think the elections have special significance.

It is not the first time that I have taken part in elections. I want to say that these elections, in my opinion, have special significance. I would like to believe—I do believe—that these elections and the electoral process itself will give fresh impetus to the democratization of our society and to a rise in the political culture of our people. That is the key to positive changes in our society on the road to building a democratic society and state. [end recording]

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Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan Comments on Situation in Parliament

NC2312155194 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0851 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("LRAGIR" daily-PAST), 12/23/94—Questioned about the attitude of RA [Republic of Armenia] president about the critical situation in the parliament, presidential spokesperson Levon Zurabyan said that "the president hopes that everything will be settled soon".

Concerning rumors that Levon Ter-Petrosyan is going to disband the parliament and call early elections, Levon Zurabyan said he has no information in this regard.

Dissident Deputies Form Separate 'Deputy Assembly'

NC2312165394 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1448 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 23/12/94 (NOYAN TAPAN)—On December 22, the first session of the Co-ordinating Council of the representatives of Armenian Revolutionary Federation faction "Dashnaktsutyun" and Parliamentary groups "National Democrats", "Independent Parliamentaries" and "National Progress", which announced their resignation at the sessions on December 19 and 21 took place. The session was headed by Paruyr Hayrikyan (the leader of the Party "Union of National Self-Determination-Christianocrats").

A number of organizational matters were solved. In particular, it was decided that on December 26, the session of the deputies, who announced their resignation and quit their activities at the Armenian Supreme Council be held. Also it was resolved that the organ of separated deputies be called "Deputy Assembly" and the Co-ordinating Council—Presidium. It is supposed that the Presidium will include by one representative from each faction and Parliamentary Group, which announced the ceasing of their activities. In the future, the Presidium's staff will be enlarged, if other deputies or factions join them.

At the session of the Presidium the order of taking decisions and the purposes and tasks of Presidium were adopted. The agenda of the December 26 session, which includes the adoption of the statement on behalf of the Deputy Assembly and the approval of the staff of the Deputy Assembly was passed.

'Illegal Methods' Used in Continuing Military Draft

NC2512105794 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1202 GMT 24 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("Lragir" daily), 12/24/94—Autumn military draft continues in Armenia. Former illegal methods of recruiting have been used again recently.

RA [Republic of Armenia] State Minister of Defense Vazgen Sargisyan denied the rumors that three months training draft has started too. The same sources reported that draft will continue for as long as it is needed to collect everyone of corresponding age.

Detained Dashnaktsutyun Member Denies Murdering Ex-Mayor

NC2612193394 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to NOYAN TAPAN, Mikayel Vaghinaki Manukyan, a Yerevan resident born in 1967, and a member of Armenian Revolutionary Federation [Dashnaktsutyun] who was being sought by the Armenian law enforcement organs on suspicion of involvement in the murder of former Yerevan Mayor Hambartsum Galustyan, voluntarily surrendered to the Armenian State Directorate for National Security on the night of 25 December in the presence of parliamentarians and reporters.

Mikayel Manukyan told reporters that he is not involved in the murder of Hambartsum Galustyan and that he has an alibi.

It has become known that, as chief witness of the prosecution, the deceased's brother Arsen was called to the State Directorate for National Security on the same night to identify the suspect. The results have not yet been published.

Premier Optimistic for Economic Development in 1995

LD2312202294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1625 GMT 23 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Hrant Bagratyan has said that the social and economic situation in the country will improve considerably in 1995.

Addressing in Yerevan an extended government meeting, he said that the commissioning early next year of the Armenian nuclear power station and of the 5th unit of the Razdan regional hydro-power station will help supply electricity to residential neighborhoods up to 10-12 hours a day instead of the current two hours, as well as will increase the number of working enterprises. Currently in operation are only 108 out of 400 industrial enterprises.

A spokesman for the government's press service has quoted Bagratyan as saying that the year 1995 will be crucial for Armenia since the country will have a non-deficit budget for the first time. It is expected to be $120 million against $90 million in 1994.

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It is expected that in 1995 Armenia will receive from donor-countries, the World Bank and from the International Monetary Fund credits worth $265 million, with the help of which the republic intends to hold the planned economic reforms. The measures will help, according to the republic's leaders, to remove the budget deficit, eliminate the energy crisis, suspend the production decline and raise the living standards.

Azerbaijan

Guliyev Receives Turkish Envoy, Discusses Visit

NC2312205594 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Rasul Guliyev, chairman of Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, received Turkish Ambassador to Azerbaijan Altan Karamanoglu yesterday. Matters relating to the visit to be paid to Azerbaijan next week by the Speaker of Turkish Grand National Assembly [TGNA] Husamettin Cindoruk were discussed during the meeting.

Rasul Guliyev said he was pleased that Husamettin Cindoruk will visit our republic and added that this visit will help to further improve the relations between the two fraternal countries, open new perspectives in the field of bilateral cooperation, and boost interparliamentary ties.

In thanking the chairman of the Supreme Soviet for his sincere reception, Altan Karamanoglu said that the broadening of the mutual ties between our countries is tantamount to the common development of the two countries. Hence, matters of concern for our countries will certainly be discussed and their realization will be speeded up during the visit of the TGNA speaker to Azerbaijan.

Namik Akhundov, director of Supreme Soviet International Relations Department, and Arshin Babayev, director of Supreme Soviet Information and Analysis Department, took part in the meeting.

Turkey To Give 'Necessary Support'

NC2412142894 Baku TURAN in English 0939 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (December 23) TURAN: "Turkey is ready to render Azerbaijan necessary support if blockade of transport communication on the part of Russia goes on," said today at the press-conference in Baku Turkish ambassador Altan Karamanoglu [name as received]. He stressed that all necessities will be delivered from Turkey to Azerbaijan by trucks through the Iran's territory. If there is some problems on this way, then all cargo will be delivered through Georgia, and if there is also some problems we will use transport planes, noted the ambassador.

Touching on the conflict in Chechnya, Karamanoglu wished the problem to be solved politically. Turkish Foreign Ministry appealed Moscow to solve the problem peacefully. The appeal was sent after Dzhokhar Dudayev asked about that the president of Turkey. "We are seriously concerned with the mass death of children, women and eldest people in Chechnya," said the ambassador. He also touched on Armenian-Azeri conflict and said : "Turkey is going to dispatch to the conflict zone its peacekeeping contingent which will total no less than 30 percent of total number. We know also that Armenians will oppose that but I hope [item incomplete as received]

Defense Minister Claims Armenia 'Using' Cease Fire

NC2612192794 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Azerbaijani Defense Minister Mamedrafi Mamedov told ASSA-IRADA correspondent that the situation continues to remain stable on the front. However, the Armenian armed units are pursuing a scorched-earth policy in Azerbaijan's occupied lands. Many towns and settlements have been razed to the ground. Anything valuable is being taken to Armenia. At the same time, they are consolidating their positions in the occupied lands, are engaged in military-engineering work, including laying mines.

In the opinion of the Republic's defense minister, the Armenian side is using the cease-fire on the front to its own advantage and is consolidating its positions in the Azerbaijani lands it has occupied.

Russia's Border Closing Could 'Worsen Relations'

NC2412143194 Baku TURAN in English 0939 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (December 23) TURAN: "The resolution of the Russian Government on closure of its borders with Azerbaijan causes deep regret", the State Adviser for Humanitarian Affairs, Gabil Huseynli, told TURAN's correspondent. He mentioned that "Moscow's motivations that Azerbaijan allegedly participates in the Chechen conflict are completely false".

The State Adviser said that the resolution on closure of borders between Russia and Azerbaijan "can decrease the level of confidence between political circles of both states and worsen relations between them".

Gabil Huseynli also mentioned that due suspension of traffic on North-Caucasian railway in September 1994, Azerbaijan faced with economic blockade. "Closure of sea, land and air communications with Russia can cause damage to Azerbaijan, which is anyway in deep economic crisis", he mentioned.

"The agreement on joint border protection has been achieved during the visit of Commander of Russian border troops, Andrey Nikolayev, to Baku", Gabil

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Huseynli mentioned. It has been stipulated that Azeri border troops will protect southern borders of the CIS while the Russian party will provide logistical assistance to them. "The agreements between two states do not provide for imposing of special border regime", he mentioned.

Gabil Huseynli also mentioned that stoppage of freights transportation between two countries will put obstacles to the international organizations providing humanitarian assistance to one million of Azeri refugees.

Moreover, freights to Iran are delivered in transit through the territories of Azerbaijan and Russia and closure of Russian communications will cause difficulties for Iran as well.

Asked if the resolution of the Russian Government may be seen as political-economic pressure on Azerbaijan, Gabil Huseynli said: "At present Baku carefully examines the situation and negotiates with the Russian Government and Russia's official circles. I am far from interpreting Moscow's resolution like this".

Gasanov Criticizes Russian Severance of Communications

NC2312203394 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Republic Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov has received the Israeli Ambassador to Azerbaijan Eliezer Yotvat. The minister expressed uneasiness at the Russian leadership's decision to terminate all the communications links with Azerbaijan. He said that this decision will further aggravate the already tense economic situation in Azerbaijan. Gasan Gasanov also said that this step by the Russian Government is unfounded, because the allegations of Azerbaijani fighters taking part in the Chechnya events on the side of Dzhokhar Dudayev do not conform to reality.

Matters relating to the provision of Israeli humanitarian assistance to Azerbaijan were discussed during the meeting. Other aspects of Azerbaijani-Israeli ties were also examined.

Kazimirov: Russia Does Not Recognize Karabakh Republic

NC2412151294 Baku TURAN in English 1359 GMT 24 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, December 23 (TURAN)—A consultations in Moscow between Russian and Swedish diplomats on issues of joint cooperation within the framework of settlement the Armenian-Azeri conflict under the mandate of the CSCE's Minsk group, according to TURAN's correspondent referring to the Department of Information in Russian Foreign Ministry. [sentence as received]

"In near future the acting Head of the CSCE will appoint co-chiefs of the Minsk conference and then a mandate of Russian and Swedish co-chiefs of the Minsk conference will be discussed," TURAN was told by special representative of Russia's president Vladimir Kazimirov. According to Kazimirov they should agree on the terms and order of mutual actions. "We appealed together with Mr. Biewner from Budapest on December 2 to all leaders of conflicting parties to solve the problem on releasing the war prisoners, hostages, or at least the wounded and men under 18 years old. He also noted that for the dispatch of peacekeeping forces into the zone of Armenian-Azeri conflict it is necessary to sign a political agreement on cessation armed conflict.

According to Russian diplomat the resolution of the UN's Security Council is necessary for the implementation the decisions of the Budapest summit, as Security Council is responsible for support the international order, peace and security. "Besides, the official requests of all conflicting parties for conduction such international operation on peace support will be needed, and it is necessary to solve a lot of problems connected with the planning of this operation, determine the structure and order of financing the operation," said Kazimirov.

Answering the attitude to the election "the president of Nagorno-Karabakh" Kazimirov said: "We said nothing in this respect, our position in this question is evident—we do not recognise it. We consider the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh only a warring party. We deal with them only within these borders, but we do not deal with any state formation, willing the independence."

Gasanov: Nagorno-Karabakh Republic 'Illegal Entity'

LD2612182794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 26 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov told Interfax that "the so-called Nagorno-Karabakh republic is an illegal entity, and is only a territory occupied by Armenia."

In his opinion, the election of 40 year-old Robert Kocharyan to the post Karabakh's first president "confirms once again the Armenians' reluctance to conclude a political agreement on the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict." This may have a negative impact on the atmosphere of the talks," he said.

By contrast, Kocharyan is convinced that "the introduction of presidency, the way it is understood by the people and leaders of Karabakh, may promote the settlement of the Karabakh conflict." He said that presidency "best corresponds to the current situation." [passage omitted]

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First President of Nagorno-Karabakh Sworn In

LD2312184394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stepanakert, Dec 23 (Interfax)—Nagorno-Karabakh on Friday [23 December] swore in its first president, Robert Kocharyan.

Kocharyan, 40, an engineer by trade, was elected president by the disputed enclave's legislature, swore "to defend the Constitution and laws of the republic, act as guarantor of its independence and democracy and of the rights and freedoms of its citizens." He is to hold the position for two years, pending a direct national presidential election in Azerbaijan's rebel province which unilaterally proclaimed independence in 1991.

For the last two years Kocharyan headed Nagorno-Karabakh's State Defense Committee, virtually being the top leader of the Armenia-backed region which six and a half years ago became engulfed in an armed conflict with Azerbaijan.

Kocharyan was congratulated by Armenia:. President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who, in a telegram sent on Friday, expressed the hope that the newly-instituted presidency "will give an extremely powerful impulse to efforts to find a political solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, ensure the security of the population of Artsakh (the Armenian name for Nagorno-Karabakh) and lead to the implementation of a program for social and economic development."

The conflict began in 1988, after the then Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, in February of that year, appealed to the Soviet Union's parliament to be put under Armenia's jurisdiction, Azerbaijan objected to this. Between July 1988 and January 1990, the region was governed by a provisional administration headed by Moscow envoy Arkadiy Volskiy. The conflict was aggravated by a decision to "reunify" the enclave with Armenia, taken late in 1989 by the Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenian parliaments. In September 1991, Nagorno-Karabakh's leadership, having dropped the reunification plan as unrealistic, on the basis of a referendum proclaimed the province an independent state, which, however, has not been recognized by anyone except Armenia.

The fighting, claiming thousands of lives, has cost Azerbaijan another seven districts, which border on Nagorno-Karabakh.

In May 1994, a truce was signed which is still in effect.

Kocharyan on Recognizing Independence

LD2512142194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1336 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stepanakert, Dec 24 (Interfax)—President of the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Robert Kocharyan said in Stepanakert on Saturday [24 December] that "settlement of the Karabakh conflict depends on recognizing independence of Nagorno Karabakh from Azerbaijan which already exists de facto."

Speaking about his first moves in the office, Kocharyan stressed that he intended to focus on strengthening the law enforcement structures and on the foreign policy.

Kocharyan was elected the Nagorno Karabakh president by the republic's parliament on December 22.

He said that his first decree would appoint the head of government and instruct him to form the cabinet of ministers.

Georgia

Reports of 'Zviadists' Fighting for Dudayev Denied

LD2512162294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1608 GMT 25 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi December 25 TASS—Georgian officials categorically denied on Sunday [25 December] Abkhazian press reports that Georgian militants are fighting in Chechnya on the side of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Reports said that a group of Zviadists (supporters of the late President Zviad Gamsakhurdia) had been sent to Chechnya from the Zugdidi district of Georgia.

The administration of the Zugdidi district said that Zviadists had been routed in October-December 1993 and described Abkhazian media reports as an "absolute lie" and an "attempt to deceive the Russian public."

Ardzinba Claims No Mercenaries Sent to Chechnya

LD2312124194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1205 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba assured Russian President Boris Yeltsin that his republic had not trained or sent any mercenaries to support Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev.

"In Abkhazia there were and are no bases for training any combat units which was confirmed by the command of the CIS peace-keepers and UN observers", Ardzinba said in a message to Yeltsin which was received by TASS on Friday [23 December].

"Not a single person was sent to the Chechen Republic by the state bodies" of Abkhazia, he stressed.

Ardzinba said that "special concern was caused by the accusation voiced by Federation Council Chairman

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Vladimir Shumeyko and his proposal to withdraw peacekeeping forces from the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict".

Ardzinba expressed hope that Russia would continue to play an important mediating role to ensure a full-scale settlement of the conflict.

UN Observer Says 'No Bases' in Abkhaz Regions

LD2412205994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 24 Dec 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Mikhail Ponomarev] Abkhaz President Vladislav Ardzinba has repeatedly and categorically denied that Abkhaz volunteers were participating in the Chechen conflict. However, according to the INTERFAX agency, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze told an extended sitting of the collegium of the republic's Defense Ministry that he had trustworthy information that up to 1,200 Abkhaz militants had already managed to get into Chechnya and were now fighting on Dudayev's side.

[Correspondent K. Bzhaniya from Abkhazia] Brigadier General John Hvidegaard, head of the UN mission of military observers in Abkhazia, has made a statement in connection with the information that volunteers for Chechnya were being trained in Abkhazia.

[Begin J. Hvidegaard recording] As one knows, our mission of military observers is regularly patrolling the safety zone where heavy weapons are prohibited, as well as the whole Abkhaz territory. We have not observed bases for training volunteers for Chechnya. There are no bases in the Kodori Gorge or in any other Abkhaz region. [end recording]

Shevardnadze Orders Increased Border Protection

LD2312145694 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1415 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—The press secretariat of the head of the Georgian state reports that in connection with the recent events in Chechnya, infiltration of unlawful armed formations from Abkhazia, in Russia, has been recorded. There have also been attempts from terrorists and arms smugglers to use Georgian territory for infiltrating Russia from other states. Also, the report says, in connection with the events in Chechnya, the withdrawal of peacekeeping forces of the CIS states from Abkhazia cannot be ruled out. Therefore, the issue of protecting Georgian borders has become even more pressing.

In connection with this, the head of the Georgian State, Eduard Shevardnadze, has issued an edict ordering the heads of power ministries, the Border Troops Command, and the head of the republic's customs service to eradicate every possible instance of the violation of Georgian borders, and ordered the Defense Ministry to keep reinforced subunits in full combat alert. The edict also envisages setting up volunteer units in the regions adjacent to Georgia's borders. These units, together with Defense Ministry subunits, will be used in emergencies to help protect Georgia's borders.

Official on Moves to Protect Abkhaz Border

LD2312153194 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1420 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 23 Dec—Vazha Lortkipanidze, head of the office of the Georgian head of state, held a news conference in the Georgian Parliament building today. Lortkipanidze acquainted the journalists with Edict No. 244 on measures to strengthen the protection of Georgia's borders, signed by head of state Eduard Shevardnadze late last night. Lortkipanidze said that the current events in the Chechen Republic occasioned the edict.

It is probable that the Russian peacekeeping forces stationed in the Georgian conflict zone will leave Georgia. The issue concerning their leaving the conflict zone has not been initiated by Georgia. Should the Russian peacekeeping troops leave Georgia, we will have to be able to guard our own borders, Lordkipanidze said.

According to Lortkipanidze, the fact that Abkhaz units are participating in combat activities in Chechnya has been proved. We cannot see a danger of a Caucasian war at the moment, but neither can we rule out destructive forces stepping up their activities. Therefore, everything should be handled with special care, Lortkipanidze said.

Repeated violations of the Georgian border have been recorded. According to Lortkipanidze, the authorities have precise reports that only one group of the former president's supporters has left Georgia for Chechnya. At the moment, the Georgian Defense Ministry is working on the implementation of the edict.

Concerted Efforts Urged to Resolve Abkhaz Issue

LD2612191694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the CONTACT news agency, Deputy Prime Minister Tamaz Nadareishvili has issued a statement saying: Recent developments have created a realistic possibility for the settlement of the Abkhaz issue, and we must make concerted efforts in order to resolve it. Thoughtless and hasty actions may lead us to irreparable results, therefore, I express my firm stance by saying that I am categorically against taking headstrong actions; any measure connected with Abkhazia must be decided at government level in official bodies.

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Abkhaz Military Formations Still on Combat Alert

LD2612171094 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian 1632 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A correspondent of the GIA news agency has been told from the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone that the order by the defense minister in Abkhazia to place Abkhaz military formations on combat alert still has not been revoked. This has been justified by the concentration of Georgian armed forces along the Enguri river, as well as continuing calls in Georgia for the resumption of military actions in Abkhazia.

Russian Troops Set To Withdraw From Inguri River Area

LD2612134494 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Vasiliy Yakushev, commander of the Russian peacekeeping troops in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone, has said that attacks on Russian Army units by Abkhaz militants have recently become more frequent. He said that the Russian troops would soon have to withdraw from the vicinity of the Inguri River.

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Estonia

Sweden To Finance Baltic States' Coast Guard

LD2312213694 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Swedish Government today decided to allocate 10 million Swedish Kronas to build modern coast guard systems in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. According to the Swedish news agency TT, this sum is to cover the first third of the total expenditure, because to develop the coast guard in the Baltic states fully is expected to cost 30 million Swedish kronas.

The main part of the project is modern radar stations, which guarantee precise navigation for ships, but the coast guards of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania will also receive some other equipment.

In two years time, when the project is completed, the Baltic countries' coast guards should be able to control sea traffic in the Baltic Sea to international standards and also to monitor sea pollution, TT reports.

Officials Report on Moscow Talks on Border Issues

LD2412225594

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian at 1800 GMT on 23 December carries a four-minute recorded report by an unidentified correspondent on a news conference by Toivo Klaar, head of the Foreign Ministry political department, and Mart Helme, head of the third bureau of the department, in Tallinn on 23 December. According to the report, the officials returned to Tallinn from Moscow, where they met Sergey Krylov, Russian deputy foreign minister in charge of European affairs, and other officials. He added that the meeting discussed several current issues, the most important of them being the border issue.

According to the report, Estonian Prime Minister Andres Tarand has recently announced that, under certain conditions, Estonia could make concessions on the borders defined by the 1920 Tartu peace treaty between Estonia and Russia. Helme and Klaar had been authorized to explain Estonia's position on the border issue to the Russian side, the correspondent recalled.

Speaking at the news conference, Helme said that the main discussion in Moscow was about the Tartu peace treaty, in what form Russia is prepared to acknowledge the Tartu peace treaty. Helme says: "As we expected, we did not reach any final formula or agreement on the issue. This was not our specific task either. Our task was to explain to the Russian side that a compromise would not be possible on this issue without the recognition of the Tartu peace treaty. Speaking figuratively, it is as if the Russian side has taken the Tartu peace treaty into its mouth like a hot potato and is pushing it around, unable to swallow it. Perhaps at some stage it will be able to do so; that is what we hope for."

The report adds that the Moscow meeting also discussed border-crossing and consular issues. Commenting on the issue of Estonian-Russian trade, Helme says: "We discussed our trade relations and customs duties; this is something we have spoken about with Russia several times, and we achieved no progress on the issue."

Speaking about discussions on Chechnya, Helme says: "The Russian side also raised the issue that the Estonian Riigikogu has adopted a resolution supporting Chechnya, and we were told in a rather irritated manner that we should remember that this is an internal affair of Russia."

The report adds that Helme said that the Estonian side had expressed serious concern about violations of minority and human rights in Chechnya.

Latvia

Ulmanis Gives Positive Assessment of Visit to China

LD2412102594 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 24 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Guntis Ulmanis has given a positive assessment of his visit to China, explaining that its mission was to stabilize the two countries' relations and lay the foundations for economic cooperation. During the visit, the two countries' leaders expressed the view that Latvia and China have a basis for creating normal interstate relations.

Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs said that in establishing relations with China, they have become the same as those with all European Union countries, and that is important because Latvia is gradually trying to integrate into that organization, one of whose characteristics is a common foreign policy among member states. Besides, stimulating relations with China also means stimulating relations with other Asian countries.

Dispute Over Russian Plans To Remove Radar Equipment

WS2612111394 Tallinn BNS in English 1352 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Dec 23, BNS—Russia's intention to bring out equipment from parts of the Skrunda radar station that was taken over by Latvia already in spring contradicts interstate agreements, Latvian diplomat Aivars Vovers said Thursday [22 December].

Russia has repeatedly applied for a permission for the equipment to be dismantled and sent Russia, said Foreign Ministry Ambassador for Special Tasks Aivars Vovers.

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Latvian and Russian members of the mixed committee failed to reach an agreement on the issue yesterday "because Latvian and American governments have already concluded agreements on the dismantling of the part of the station," Vovers said.

The parties managed to agree on a mechanism for the prevention of disturbance of radio communication because of the radar functioning.

In addition, the group decided to extend the term of payment of mutual debts of Russian military and Latvian enterprises.

Another issue yet to be solved remains that of Russian military persons who were discharged after Jan. 28, 1992, and who, under the agreements, had to leave Latvia by Dec. 31.

The participants of the meeting looked into an additional list of 1,689 military persons who are said to be staying in Latvia illegally and a request to extend their residence permits by the end of the next year.

The Latvian members of the committee asked their Russian colleagues to update the list in the near future. The lists are also under consideration at the Latvian foreign, interior and defense ministries, Vovers noted.

Ulmanis, Estonian President Issue Statement on Refugees

LD2612204494 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1601 GMT 26 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tonight on the Latvian-Estonian border, Estonian borderguards handed over 144 Afghan and Kurdish refugees from the wrecked Latvian ship Katrana to Latvian authorities. This ship ran aground off the Estonian island of Saaremaa on 24 December. Aivars Zvaninieks, the only crew member of the Katrana, a 24-year-old resident of Limbazi district, was arrested and is still in Estonia. Latvia has a legal assistance agreement with Estonia.

Aivars Vovers, special envoy of the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has reported that the case will be investigated. The Cabinet of Ministers for its part will have to consider how the issue of refugees can be tackled. Vovers believes that a sufficient term of imprisonment may be in the offing for Aivars Zvaninieks because with his action he endangered the lives of many people.

Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis and Estonian President Lennart Meri today issued a joint statement in this connection. The Latvian and Estonian presidents congratulated the effective action by the border services of the two countries in tackling this problem. Ulmanis and Meri are convinced that the Baltic states have to achieve complete control over their external borders. This has to be considered one of the main tasks in strengthening stability in the Baltic region. Therefore, the Latvian and Estonian presidents propose to hold a summit meeting of the presidents of the three Baltic states in Jurmala [Latvian resort town] in the immediate future to discuss the above-mentioned issue.

Guntis Ulmanis and Lennart Meri are convinced that the strengthening of the unity of the Baltic states and the enhancement of their international prestige are the highest priority for Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania.

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